United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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13 October 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council decides to reimpose sanctions against Haiti at midnight on 18 October unless parties to Governors Island Agreement and other Haitian authorities implement agreement to reinstate President Aristide's Government and allow UNMIH to carry out its mandate.

- Security Council, in Presidential statement, condemns blocking of Danube by two Serbian non-governmental organizations with acquiescence Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); demands that Federal Republic ensure free movement of international traffic on river.

- Secretary-General leaves New York for visit to Africa; to meet in Cairo tomorrow with Secretaries-General of OAU, Arab League, and Islamic Conference to address role of regional organizations in promoting political process in Somalia.

- General Assembly President hails "vision and sense of purpose in addressing the global agenda" as Assembly concludes general debate; 175 States participated.

- Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Nepal, Belize, Saudi Arabia, Equatorial Guinea and Liberia speak in general debate today.

- Samoa, Grenada, Malawi and Azerbaijan among speakers in general debate yesterday.

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The Security Council today decided to end the suspension of sanctions against Haiti set out in resolution 841 (1993) as of 2359 hours Eastern Standard Time on 18 October unless the Secretary-General reported that the parties to the Governors Island Agreement and any other authorities in Haiti were fully implementing the agreement to reinstate the Government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and had established measures enabling the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) to carry out its mandate. The Council took

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that action, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, by unanimously adopting resolution 873 (1993).

The Council said that the Committee established by resolution 841 (1993) could grant certain exceptions to the prohibitions on a case-by-case basis under the no-objection prodcedure in response to requests by President Aristide or Prime Minister Robert Malval of Haiti. The Council said it would consider imposing additional measures if the Secretary-General informed it that the parties to the Governors Island Agreement or any other authorities in Haiti continued to impede UNMIH activities, or had not complied fully with relevant resolutions and the provisions of the Agreement.

In a report issued earlier today, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the Commander-in-Chief of Haiti's Armed Forces and the police chief and commander of the Port-au-Prince area had not fulfilled the commitments entered into under the Agreement. Monday's incidents in Haiti, in which armed civilian groups prevented a ship carrying a UNMIH contingent from landing in Port-au-Prince, were the culmination of a situation which had been deteriorating for weeks. He cited several other incidents as evidence, and said they reflected a lack of will on the part of the military authorities to "cooperate fully in the peaceful transition to...a democratic society". They also reflected the clear intent to prevent the democratic process, as accepted in the Agreement, from taking its course, he said.

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The Security Council today expressed deep concern at the continuing blocking of the Danube by two Serbian non-governmental organizations, and deplored the acquiescence of the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), as reflected in the fact that they had failed to take any action to prevent those acts.

In a statement read out by its President, Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg (Brazil), the Council condemned those deliberate and unjustified acts of interference with the river traffic of several Member States of the United Nations. The Council emphasized the importance of free and unhindered navigation on the Danube, which was essential for legitimate trade in the region. It reminded the Federal Republic of its previous commitment to secure free and safe navigation on "this vital international waterway".

The Council also expressed concern that the Federal Republic continued to impose tolls on foreign vessels transiting the section of the Danube which passed through its territory, in violation of its international obligations. The Council demanded that the authorities and any others imposing similar tolls cease such action immediately. The Council condemned those illegal actions and reaffirmed that it was wholly unacceptable for the Federal Republic to take retaliatory measures in response to action by a State in fulfillment of its obligations under the United Nations Charter. It also demanded that the Federal Republic ensure free movement of international traffic on the Danube.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is due to leave New York today for a visit to Africa, and will meet tomorrow in Cairo with the Secretaries-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, according to a United Nations spokesman. The meeting will also be attended by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Chairman of the OAU.

The meeting would address the role of the regional organizations, of which Somalia was a member, in promoting the political process in that country, the spokesman said. It would also review ways to enhance cooperation between those organizations and the United Nations in accordance with the Charter. The three organizations felt a special responsibility for Somalia and had indicated to the Secretary-General that they were ready to play a role in the process of political reconciliation there.

The Secretary-General would be going to Mauritius to attend the Summit of Francophone States. He also planned to meet with the President of Ethiopia, probably in Addis Ababa, although a schedule for the rest of his visit to Africa had not yet been concluded, the spokesman said.

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General Assembly President Samuel Insanally (Guyana) today described this year's general debate as "remarkable for its vision and sense of purpose in addressing the global agenda for the rest of this century and beyond". In a statement at the conclusion of two and a half weeks of debate, Mr. Insanally said it was encouraging to see widespread optimism about the Organization's capacity to satisfy the expectations and needs of its Membership.

"There seems to be a renewed commitment by all States to the principles and purposes of the Charter and a ready acknowledgement of the concept of interdependence which must now be translated into actual cooperation," Mr. Insanally said. He noted that support for preventive diplomacy, peace-making and peacekeeping, as set out in the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace", was stronger than ever before.

Altogether, 175 countries were represented in the general debate, including 28 by their Heads of State. Nine Member States did not take part in this year's debate: Andorra, Georgia, Madagascar, São Tome and Principe, Somalia, Vanuatu and Zambia, and the two Members barred from participation in the Assembly, South Africa and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

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Resio S. Moses, the Secretary of External Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia, this morning told the General Assembly that in its brief time

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as a Member of the United Nations, his country's experience had demonstrated the strength of concerted international action. Only few years ago, he said, "having barely emerged from colonialism", its best hopes for development lay with dependence for an indefinite period on the generosity of a few bilateral donors. Today, through the work of the United Nations and with Micronesia's participation, the special development needs and environmental exposures of all small island developing States were being carefully addressed in a number of settings. He said his Government had also been encouraged by the ways in which the Organization as a whole had sought to help small States to participate fully in its work.

In this Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, he continued, it was important that the United Nations redouble its efforts to ensure that the peoples of the remaining non-self-governing territories be given every opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination. While the obstacles facing the remaining territories were minor compared to those being confronted so dramatically in Eastern Europe and in Palestine, it remained a moral responsibility to support the right to self-determination for all peoples under colonial administration. "Let us commit ourselves to the complete elimination of colonialism," he said.

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Francis Saemala, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Solomon Islands, told the General Assembly today that the solutions to the world's problems might not lie simply in the political, economic or social spheres. In many cases the problems were so complex and deep-seated that supra-human help was needed. A new prescription for true peace must include the development of the spiritual and pastoral well-being of all peoples, he said. The Solomon Islands Government recognized as its first principle "the sovereignty of God as the basis for righteousness, justice and dignity in the development of Solomon Islands and its people". Neither the individual nor society could reach their full potential without the help of God, he said. If God was sovereign in world affairs, would we not be wiser to bring Him into the planning process as well as allowing him a place in the resolution of conflicts? he asked.

Solomon Islands strongly supported the desire of the Republic of China on Taiwan to rejoin the United Nations, he said. As a small, friendly nation with a population of only 300,000, Solomon Islands believed that the desire of Taiwan's 21 million people to have their own representation in the world body was reasonable and justified. He pledged his support for the establishment of an ad hoc committee to examine the question of the Republic of China rejoining the United Nations. Turning to other issues, he expressed concern about the dumping of radioactive and other waste at sea, and urged parties to the 1972 London Convention to actively support a total ban on such dumping.

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Girija Prasad Koirala, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, said in the general debate this morning that the restoration of

multi-party democracy and respect for fundamental human rights did not mean that his people had solved all their problems. Expectations were high and the country's resources were extremely limited. He said his Government had been striving to ensure a better standard of living for the people with greater freedom, working on the premise that the individual citizen, and not the State, had the right to development. But it was contending with a lack of means, the high cost of infrastructure, a shortage of skilled personnel and institutional deficiences. Nepal looked forward to greater understanding from donor countries and multilateral agencies in providing help, he said.

Nepal's foreign policy, he continued, was guided by the goal of ensuring its sovereignty, political independence and national security, while promoting international peace and cooperation. It sought friendship with all the countries of the world, in particular with its neighbours, and enjoyed excellent relations with them. His country was a partner with its friends in South Asia, he said, in an effort to forge a mutually beneficial scheme of cooperation for the welfare of all their peoples, under the aegis of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

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Dean Barrow, Belize's Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Economic Development and Attorney-General, told the General Assembly today that the brief "hiccup" earlier this year in Guatemala had not seriously flawed that country's efforts at democratization. He expressed satisfaction that the new Government of Guatemala had confirmed its recognition of a sovereign and independent Belize, and said diplomatic relations between the two countries could proceed apace. They would continue to work for the preservation of bilateral and regional security, and to search for a lasting solution to the issues bedevilling them, on the basis of mutual respect for peace, and the rights of self-determination and territorial integrity.

Mr. Barrow went on to say that the overall outlook for world security remained bleak. During the present session, the Assembly could take certain steps to deal with threats to peace and security. He suggested that Governments forswear profiteering from the sale of armaments; that regional and sub-regional systems of cooperation and coordination be expanded in the areas of security, narcotics interdiction and counter-terrorism; and that the Assembly make firm recommendations for the development and enforcement of domestic neutrality laws. The international law relating to neutrality must be modernized to proscribe and punish arms trafficking in all cases of armed conflict, internal or international, he added.

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Gaafar Allagany, the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, announced in the general debate today that, despite its own financial burdens, his country had pledged to provide $100 million for 1994 to improve the infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza, in coordination with the World Bank's special five-year programme for the Occupied Territories. He said the welcome which the Palestinian-Israeli agreement had received within

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Palestinian, Arab and international circles clearly reflected the desire of the Arabs for a permanent, just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. His Government felt it was incumbent upon the international community to support the progress achieved, by providing the economic and developmental assistance needed to make the agreement on self-government succeed.

He emphasized that his country desired peace and stability in the Middle East so that it could direct all its energies towards development and devote all its resources to the prosperity of its people. Saudi Arabia believed that the goal of making the Middle East a region free of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction -- nuclear, chemical or biological -- would only be realized when all the States in the region, including Israel, refrained from the production, stockpiling or possession of any such weapons. With respect to Saudi Arabia itself, he said the society was undergoing evolution and significant reforms, in accordance with the Islamic Shari'a. He announced that the members of the Consultative Council and the Provincial Councils had been named, paving the way for Saudi citizens to participate in building a hopeful future for their country.

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Dámaso-Obiang Ndong, Chairman of the Delegation of Equatorial Guinea, told the General Assembly today that his country attached great importance to the work of the United Nations, especially with regard to preventive diplomacy. Prevention was much less costly than intervention after a conflict had broken out. Nevertheless, Equitorial Guinea looked to the future with a degree of concern, in part because of inequitable economic relations. The external debt problem prevented developing countries from improving living standards, he said. The gap between rich and poor was increasing at a disturbing pace and the international community should take action. He urged that the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) be strengthened.

Developed countries bore the greatest responsibility for the deterioration of the global eco-system and had a special responsibility in that regard to developing countries, he continued. They should help developing countries by financing alternative projects and increasing technological cooperation. He went on to say that Equatorial Guinea was committed to democratization and that numerous political parties had received official recognition. Laws had been enacted guaranteeing freedom of association and the right to demonstrate, and a National Pact had been concluded by the Government and the opposition. He condemned attempts to undermine national peace and stability and interference by foreign interests in Equatorial Guinea. Progress could only be achieved with peace, he said.

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Gabriel Baccus Matthews, Foreign Minister of the Interim Government of Liberia, today paid tribute and expressed gratitude to all those who had helped end the civil strife in his country, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and

the United Nations. The dispatch and maintenance of a peace-keeping force in Liberia by ECOWAS represented "the finest hour" for Africa, he said, in its efforts to maintain peace and security on the Continent. The Liberian experience had also demonstrated that peace initiatives conceived and implemented within a subregional context, while supported and assisted by regional and international organizations, stood the best chance of success in conflict resolution.

The Transitional Government, when installed with authority spanning the entire country, would need extensive relief assistance to effectively respond to the monumental human suffering in parts of Liberia, the Foreign Minister said. He envisaged an upsurge in demand for humanitarian assistance, particularly for food and medical supplies, and appealed to the international community to stand ready to help the people of Liberia for some time to come. Assistance would be needed for the massive tasks of the repatriation of refugees, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The Transitional Government, he added, would have the task of preparing the country for free and fair elections within six or seven months. That was not ideal timing, but was the best that the could be produced in the negotiated settlement. The international community, he said, had a moral obligation to help the Liberians succeed in that endeavour, because the very thought of failure was a nightmare.

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Tofilau Eti Alesana, Prime Minister of Samoa, told the General Assembly yesterday that peace-keeping operations alone could not sustain peace without attention to the root causes of conflicts. Poverty and the denial of human rights were the real problems. Development and democratic reforms were essential to prevent political and social crises and should be a major focus for the Organization. Samoa believed in the importance of human rights in all United Nations activities and welcomed the Declaration and Programme of Action produced by the World Conference on Human Rights. The Conference had made a major contribution to the promotion of human rights, especially by recognizing development as a human right. He said Samoa supported the creation of a United Nations high commissioner for human rights.

Peace, stability and the preservation of the environment were crucial to the South Pacific region, he continued. Samoa wanted an end to nuclear testing, the dumping of chemical and toxic wastes and the transportation of those materials in its waters. He urged the nuclear Powers to accede to the protocols of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty. Environmental security was crucial as small island States and low lying atolls were isolated and ecologically fragile. Without international cooperation and an integrated approach, the outlook was not promising. Next year's Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States would present an opportunity to implement "Agenda 21" and reaffirm the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

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Francis Alexis, Grenada's Attorney-General and Minister for CARICOM Affairs, told the General Assembly yesterday that the problems of developing countries were still daunting. Grenada continued to pursue its own structural adjustment programme, and its people had shown great understanding and cooperation. However, prolonged difficulties in the economic sector could create conditions that could adversely affect social development. He called on the international community to show greater flexibility in assisting the adjustment process in Grenada and in other countries with similar economic conditions. Poverty, debt, inadequate resources, marginalization and a lack of secure markets for their products undermined social, economic and political stability in those countries, he stressed.

Free trade was not always synonymous with fair trade, he went on to say. Factors of size, resource endowment and levels of development must be considered in settling trade relations. That was particularly so with small, open, primary-producing economies where one serious natural disaster, such as a hurricane, could be devastating. Concessioned trade was needed for a level playing field. "Developing countries will not progress on sympathy; they require equity. Small countries like Grenada cannot do it all alone," he said. They needed assistance for diversification, the development of human resources and the implementation of sustainable development, he stressed.

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Nyemba Mbekeani, Malawi's Minister of Trade and Industry, told the General Assembly yesterday that he was thankful that Malawi had experienced good rains this season. The drought of the last two seasons had had devastating effects in southern Africa. In 1991, Malawi's gross domestic product (GDP) had grown by 7.8 per cent; in 1992, it had declined by 7.9 per cent. Complete recovery from the drought would take some time. He thanked the United Nations, particularly the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the bilateral donors and the non-governmental organizations who had "saved the day" for Malawi and southern Africa with massive imports of food, medicines and other humanitarian supplies. However, he noted that his country still had to confront a major balance-of-payments deficit problem arising from the large volume of maize imported during the drought.

The problem of the Mozambican refugees in Malawi, a consequence of the civil war between the Government and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO), would end when the protocols of the General Peace Accord were implemented in full, he continued. He urged the Government and RENAMO to work closely together and with the United Nations to ensure that peace and political stability were firmly established in Mozambique. Malawi had suffered tremendously from the 16-year civil war in that country. He said priority should be given to the demining programme, demobilizing the armed forces and placing them in designated assembly areas, and to finalizing discussions on the draft electoral law.

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Yashar Aliyev, Acting Chairman of the Azerbaijani Delegation, said in the General Assembly yesterday that his country was following the only true path to independence by building a democratic society and a market economy. Unfortunately, incidents of extreme nationalism had been used to undermine democracy. The nationalist elements in Armenia had waged war against Azerbaijan to fulfil their territorial claims. Twenty per cent of Azerbaijan was now occupied by Armenian troops, and about 1 million people had been forced to leave their homes. Large areas of the country and unique historical sites had been destroyed. Azerbaijan sought a peaceful settlement of the dispute. He welcomed Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993), which called for the unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from Azerbaijan. He also welcomed the Minsk timetable, which called for urgent efforts to implement the Security Council resolutions. Azerbaijan was committed to applying Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) decisions, he said.

Azerbaijan had well-developed industries and was rich in natural resources, he continued. It could overcome its economic difficulties, but many of its people had become refugees because of the conflict and humanitarian aid was of great importance. He thanked the organizations and Governments who had aided the Azerbaijani people and welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Interim Office in his country.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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14 October 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, expressing concern that continuation of conflict in and around Nagorny Karabakh and of tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan would endanger peace in the region, calls on parties to make cease-fire permanent and to refrain from hostile acts which could lead to widening of conflict.

+ Secretary-General, beginning Africa visit, attends meeting in Cairo with Secretaries-General of OAU, Arab League and Organization of Islamic Conference; participants reaffirm commitment to aiding peace and reconciliation process in Somalia.

+ Secretary-General "elated" after release of American and Nigerian soldiers held captive in Somalia; Under-Secretary-General Jonah, in Mogadishu, has meetings with Special Representative Howe, Somali leaders and United States Envoy Oakley.

+ General Committee recommends inclusion of item on "Building a peaceful and better world through sport" in General Assembly agenda; OAU, co-sponsor of item, suggests that 1994 be proclaimed international year of sport and Olympic ideals.

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The Security Council this evening called upon the parties to the conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic to make effective and permanent the cease-fire they established with the assistance of the Russian Federation and the Minsk Group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). In unanimously adopting resolution 874 (1993), the Council expressed concern that a continuation of the conflict and of the tensions between the Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan would endanger peace and security in the region. It urged all States in the region to refrain from any hostile acts and from any interference or intervention which would lead to such a widening of the conflict.

The Council called on the parties to immediately implement the "Adjusted timetable of urgent steps" to implement its resolutions which was set out at

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the 28 September meeting of the CSCE Minsk Group. Those include the withdrawal of forces from recently occupied territories and the removal of all obstacles to communication and transportation. It also called for an early convening of the CSCE Minsk Conference with the aim of arriving at a negotiated settlement of the conflict. By the resolution, it requests the Secretary-General to send a representative to the Conference, and to provide all possible assistance for the substantive negotiations that will ensue.

Expressing its grave concern at the suffering caused by the conflict, the Council called on all the parties involved to refrain from violating international humanitarian law and to allow unimpeded access for international humanitarian relief efforts in all the areas affected by the conflict. It also requested the Secretary-General and relevant international agencies to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population and to assist refugees and displaced people to return to their homes in security and dignity.

The Council took note of the high-level meetings in Moscow on 8 October and expressed the hope that they would contribute to the improvement of the situation and to the peaceful settlement of the conflict. It reiterated its full support for the peace process being pursued within the framework of the CSCE and the "tireless efforts" of its Minsk Group.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today began his visit to Africa in Cairo, where he attended a meeting with the Secretaries-General of the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, according to a United Nations spokesman. The meeting, which was hosted by the Chairman of the OAU, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, was called to discuss efforts to help and promote peace and reconciliation in Somalia.

In a joint statement issued afterwards, the participants reaffirmed their joint determination to continue to search for common solutions to the problems of Somalia. They recalled that under the Addis Ababa Agreement of 27 March, Somali political leaders had committed themselves to continuing the peace process, under the auspices of the United Nations and in cooperation with regional organizations and neighbouring countries.

The participants stressed their commitment to advancing the process of reconciliation and rebuilding begun by the Somali leaders, and to the principles of cooperation and peace. They also stressed their commitment to pursuing a coordinated and comprehensive approach in the search for solutions to the country's problems, and invited all Somali parties to cooperate in that regard.

Before arriving in Cairo, the Secretary-General stopped over in Paris, where he met with the French Prime Minister. They discussed the situations in

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti, Somalia and Rwanda, and the Secretary-General underlined the importance of France's contribution to the work of the United Nations, especially in the peace-keeping field.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was "elated" after the unconditional release today of Chief Warrant Officer Michael Durant, an American national, and Umar Shantali, a Nigerian soldier, who had been held captive by Somali militiamen in Mogadishu, according to a United Nations spokesman. The two soldiers were turned over to the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) II by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Mr. Durant had several broken bones and underwent surgery today, and would be flown to Germany tomorrow. Mr. Shantali was expected to return to his contingent.

In related news, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, James Jonah, met in Mogadishu this morning wtih the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Jonathan Howe, and the Deputy Special Representative, Lansana Kouyate. According to a United Nations spokesman, Mr. Jonah and Ambassador Kouyate met later with Somali leaders, including Ali Mahdi and representatives of the Group of Twelve, factions which signed the Addis Ababa accords. They discussed the situation in Mogadishu and how to resolve the current problems there. Mr. Jonah also met later with the United States Special Envoy, Robert Oakley.

The spokesman also reported that consultations on the establishment of Somalia's third Regional Council, serving the Middle Shabelle region, have been completed and that the Council would be inaugurated on Saturday.

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The General Committee this morning recommended that an item on "Building a peaceful and better world through sport" be included in the agenda of the General Assembly, acting on a request by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and Egypt.

Introducing the item, Dawlat Ibrahim Hassan (Egypt) said that the OAU, at its summit in Cairo last July, had endorsed an appeal by the International Olympic Committee that it support such an approach. She said the OAU had also decided to ask the General Assembly to proclaim 1994 the international year dedicated to sport and Olympic ideals, on the understanding that it would not involve any expenditure by the United Nations or its Member States. Ms. Hassan said that although celebration of the year would be organized at the national and international level and at no cost to the United Nations, the Organization's support would help promote its goals. The Assembly will consider the proposal tomorrow morning.

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General, on visit to Africa, meets with President of Djibouti and with Special Representative for Somalia and Under-Secretaries-General for Political Affairs and Peace-keeping; will also visit Ethiopia and Kenya, to develop concerted approach to situation in Somalia.

- Expressing sadness at murder of Haitian Justice Minister, Secretary-General says United Nations and OAS will redouble efforts for peace and democracy in Haiti.

- Secretary-General congratulates South African President Frederick de Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela on winning Nobel Peace Prize; pledges support for establishment of non-racist, democratic South Africa.

- Syria tells Sixth Committee (Legal) of need to distinguish terrorism from just struggle for independence and self-determination; United States says no cause can justify acts of terrorism; Sweden says political will is needed to promote adherence to relevant conventions.

- World Meteorological Organization warns that ozone values over Antarctica fell to lowest levels ever recorded between late September and early October; Secretary-General of WMO appeals to all countries to uphold Montreal Protocol and phase out ozone-depleting chemicals.

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On the second day of his visit to Africa, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today travelled from Cairo to Djibouti, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General met there with the President of Djibouti, Hassan Gouled Aptidon, to discuss the situation in Somalia, as part of his effort to develop a concerted approach with its neighbouring countries.

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The Secretary-General later met at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Djibouti with his top aides working in Somalia, the spokesman said. That meeting was attended by Special Representative Jonathan Howe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs James Jonah and Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Kofi Annan.

This weekend the Secretary-General will be in Mauritius to attend the Summit Conference of Francophone countries. During his visit to Africa, he also plans to visit Ethiopia and Kenya to meet with the Heads of State of those countries for further discussions regarding Somalia.

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In a statement issued last night, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that he was deeply saddened by the assassination of Haiti's Minister of Justice, Guy Malary, together with two bodyguards and a fourth person. He expressed his condolences to the families of those who had lost their lives, and his sympathy with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Prime Minister Robert Malval and with the Haitian people on their loss, according to a United Nations spokesman.

The Secretary-General said that if those who had perpetrated the crime believed that their actions had weakened the resolve of the international community, they were mistaken. The United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) would now redouble their efforts to promote the return of peace and democracy in Haiti, he stressed.

The United Nations this morning evacuated 51 dependants from Haiti to Santo Domingo, and instructed the remaining 325 staff in the country to move to the United Nations compound in Port-au-Prince. A spokesman described the situation as extraordinarily serious, and said the United Nations was "very worried" about the security and safety of personnel in Haiti.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today congratulated President Frederick de Klerk of South Africa and Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General applauded the two leaders for working together along with the people of South Africa to eradicate the evil of apartheid.

The Secretary-General also pledged his full support for the establishment of a non-racist, democratic South Africa, the spokesman said.

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The Sixth Committee (Legal) yesterday began considering measures to eliminate international terrorism, and was told by the representative of Syria, Ahmad Hallak, that the international community must agree on a clear distinction between acts of terrorism and the just struggle of people for

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their independence and self-determination. He called for the convening of an international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to address the question of international terrorism and to develop an accepted definition. All efforts to fight international terrorism should be undertaken in accordance with the United Nations Charter, he said.

The representative of Sweden, Michael Odevall, speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, opposed the convening an international conference, saying that such an effort would not combat terrorism. Instead, it would confuse the situation by giving the impression that existing rules were insufficient. What was needed was the political will to enhance adherence to existing conventions against terrorism, and the use of sanctions against violators, he said.

United States representative Robert Rosenstock told the Committee that no cause could justify acts of terrorism. While poverty and injustice were fertile breeding grounds for terrorism, they could never justify such acts, he said, stressing the importance of United Nations work in the economic and social field.

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According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), ozone values over the Antarctic fell to the lowest levels ever recorded for several days in late September and early October. In its latest bulletin on the ozone layer, the WMO said that in that period more than 60 per cent of the ozone was destroyed above the central part of Antarctica over an area greater than all of Europe. Furthermore, the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported that the relatively low temperatures prevailing in the stratosphere over the continent were continuing to facilitate ozone-destructive chemical reactions.

In a statement issued today, WMO Secretary-General G.O.P. Obasi renewed his plea to all countries to help protect the ozone layer by phasing out chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other ozone-depleting chemicals, as required by the Montreal Protocol.

To protect the ozone layer, the invisible shield which filters out the sun's harmful ultra-violet rays, many countries have followed the guidelines drawn up by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and adopted at the Montreal conference on the issue. They have enforced such specific measures as removing CFCs from aerosol cans and food packing foam, and switching from air-conditioning systems that use CFCs. It is believed that without the protection of the ozone layer, more people would get skin cancer and cataracts, and plant and marine life would suffer.

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United Nations

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18 October 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted on Saturday, calls on Member States to ensure implementation of Haiti embargo scheduled to begin at 11:59 p.m. tonight, and to inspect ships travelling towards country; confirms readiness to consider further measures to ensure compliance with its resolutions.

+ Secretary-General, continuing African visit in Mozambique, meets with Mozambican President and with President of RENAMO with view to accelerating peace process.

+ In message to mark International Day for Eradication of Poverty, Secretary-General says extreme poverty is universal tragedy which endangers everyone; calls for international solidarity to fight it.

+ In letter to Security Council, Secretary-General says Special Commission examining war crimes in former Yugoslavia is ready to fulfil mandate in support of International Tribunal; has set up large database and sent five investigative missions to territory in last seven months.

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Acting under Chapters VII and VIII of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has called on Member States to ensure strict implementation of the oil and arms embargo against Haiti, and in particular to halt and inspect ships travelling towards the country in order to verify their cargoes and destinations. By unanimously adopting resolution 875 (1993) on Saturday, the Council confirmed that it was prepared to consider further measures to ensure full compliance with its relevant resolutions.

The Council reaffirmed that in "these unique and exceptional circumstances" the failure of military authorities in Haiti to fulfil their obligations under the Governors Island Agreement constituted a threat to international peace and security. It called on Member States, acting nationally or through regional arrangements and in cooperation with the legitimate Government of Haiti, to use appropriate measures to implement the sanctions called for under resolutions 841 (1993) and 873 (1993).

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For information media--not an official record

Resolution 873 (1993), which was adopted last Wednesday, reimposed the embargo against Haiti which was originally established by resolution 841 (1993), and which was suspended following the Governors Island Agreement. The reimposed embargo is scheduled to go into effect as of 2359 hours Eastern Standard Time tonight, unless the parties to the Agreement reinstate the legitimate Government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and enable the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) to carry out its mandate.

Chapter VII of the Charter provides for action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression. Chapter VIII refers to regional arrangements for the maintenance of international peace and security.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, visiting Mozambique with a view to accelerating the peace process there, had meetings today with Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, with Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO) President Afonso Dhlakama, and with representatives of other political parties, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General was also expected to meet with representatives of States participating in the Supervisory and Monitoring Commission, the Cease-fire Commission and the Joint Commission for the Formation of the Mozambican Defense Forces.

On arriving in Maputo yesterday, the Secretary-General met with James Jonah, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and with the Special Representatives in Angola and Mozambique in order to review the status of United Nations peace-keeping operations in those countries. On Saturday, the Secretary-General participated in the Fifth Conference of the Heads of State or Government of the Francophone Countries in Mauritius. He also had private meetings with the Presidents of Mauritius, France, Mali and Chad, the Prime Minister of Togo and the Vice Prime Minister of Belgium.

* * *

In a message marking the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said that extreme poverty was a universal tragedy which endangered human life in both the poorest societies and the richest ones. The text of his message was read out by Marco Vianello-Chiodo, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, at an observance at Headquarters today organized jointly by the United Nations and the ATD Fourth World movement.

Everyone, the Secretary-General said, must be involved in the task of putting an end to extreme poverty. The United Nations regarded international action against poverty as one of its noblest aims, and was seeking to end this "unacceptable scourge" through the activities of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Centre for Human Rights.

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He went on to say that non-governmental organizations were an essential link in increasing global public awareness of the issue, and he paid tribute especially to Father Joseph Wresinski, the founder of ATD Fourth World. By offering everyone better access to education, health, food and decent housing, it would be possible to secure the rights of the excluded and to integrate them into the life of the community, he stressed. Only through a lasting solidarity movement could those goals be attained, through the efforts of States, international bodies and non-governmental organizations, and every individual.

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In the last seven months, the Special Commission examining evidence of war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia has collected and analysed information with the help of a database and sent five investigative missions to that territory, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a letter to the Security Council dated 5 October, he said that the database had been of great assistance, and that the Commission had processed thousands of pages of information on mass killings, the abuse of prisoners, systematic sexual assaults and "ethnic cleansing". That information would provide valuable help to the Special Prosecutor of the International Tribunal established to deal with such crimes.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the Commission had had to postpone or limit its investigative missions and major projects because of the volatile military and political situation in the former Yugoslavia, and because of a shortage of resources before July-August. However, it now had adequate resources for intensified verification work provided that the situation in the former Yugoslavia did not present new complications. The programme of work for the coming months included continuing ongoing missions and sending specialized teams to investigate mass graves, cases of systamatic rape, detention centres and prison camps.

The Secretary-General concluded that in the light of its achievements so far and its projected plans, the Commission was ready and willing to proceed with its work in fulfillment of its broad mandate and in support of the International Tribunal and its Prosecutor.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1502
19 October 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council condemns violation by Abkhaz forces of cease-fire agreement with Republic of Georgia; also condemns killing of Chairman of Defence Council of Abkhazia, and demands that all parties refrain use of force and violations of international humanitarian law.

+ Secretary-General, continuing Mozambique stay, meets with South African political figures; expects to visit Somalia, although date not yet set.

+ Security Council -- in formal meeting -- adopts forty-eighth annual report to General Assembly for period 16 June 1992 to 15 June 1993.

+ General Assembly votes to commemorate on 1 November 50th anniversary of Declaration of Four Nations on General Security, which called for establishment of international organization for maintenance of international peace and security.

+ UNHCR appeals for $1 million to help Somali rape victims in Kenyan refugee camps; says first such appeal in June drew no response at all.

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The Security Council this afternoon reaffirmed its condemnation of the violation by Abkhaz forces of their cease-fire agreement with the Republic of Georgia, and their subsequent violations of international humanitarian law. By unanimously adopting resolution 876 (1993), it also condemned the killing of Zhiuly Shartava, the Chairman of the Defence Council and Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, and demanded that all parties to the conflict refrain the use of force and from any violations of international humanitarian law. The Council welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to send a fact-finding mission to Georgia, in particular to investigate reports of "ethnic cleansing".

While welcoming the humanitarian assistance already provided to victims of the conflict, the Council urged Member States to contribute to relief efforts being carried out by international aid agencies. Saying that the

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For information media--not an official record

continuation of the Abkhaz conflict threatened peace and stability in the region, it also called upon all States to prevent people on their territory or under their jurisdiction from providing any assistance -- other than humanitarian -- to the Abkhaz side. In particular, the resolution urged them to prevent the supply of any weapons and munitions to its forces.

The Council reiterated its support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, in cooperation with the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and with the assistance of the Government of the Russian Federation as a facilitator, to promote efforts to achieve an overall political settlement.

* * *

Continuing his stay in Mozambique, as part of his visit to Africa, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali devoted today to talks on South Africa, according to a United Nations spokesman. Accompanied by James Jonah, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and Angela King, Chief of the United Nations Observer Mission to South Africa (UNOMSA), he met with South African political figures to apprise himself of recent developments there.

This morning, the Secretary-General met with Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, President of the Inkatha Freedom Party and Chief Minister of Kwazulu, South Africa, and stressed the need to follow through on his June meeting with Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress (ANC). He then met with Clarence Makwetu, President of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) and discussed measures for ending the violence in South Africa. The Secretary-General later met with John Hall, Chairperson of the National Peace Committee, and Anthony Gildenhuys, Chairperson of the National Peace Secretariat, and had a working lunch with South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha.

The Secretary-General was still expected to visit Somalia during his visit to Africa, but no date had yet been decided, the spokesman noted.

* * *

The Security Council today adopted its forty-eighth annual report to the General Assembly for the period 16 June 1992 to 15 June 1993. As part of changes in the format of its proceedings, the report was adopted in a formal meeting. By accepting a series of proposals in June 1993, the Council had decided that the report would no longer be issued as a confidential statement.

The changes in format are part of an ongoing discussion of new ways to provide information to States that are not Council members. The Council report, which is issued in a single volume, is being submitted to the Assembly as required by the United Nations Charter. During the period covered by the report, the Council held 152 meetings and adopted 81 resolutions and 95 presidential statements.

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Part I of the report covers questions considered by the Council under its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Part II deals with other matters, such as the admission of new members, while Part III covers the work of the military staff committee. Matters brought to the Council's attention but not discussed during the period covered in the report, which were contained in communications from various Member States, are included in chronological order in Part IV.

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The General Assembly this morning voted to commemorate in its plenary on 1 November the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of the Four Nations on General Security, adopted in Moscow on 30 October 1943. The resolution noted that that Declaration called for the establishment, "at the earliest practicable date", of an international organization based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving States and open to membership by all such States, large or small, for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Assembly this morning also adopted a resolution taking note of the work of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, including the decision of the Committee that the theme of the anniversary should be "We the peoples of the United Nations ... united for a better world".

* * *

A second urgent appeal for funds to help Somali rape victims has been issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The first such appeal, made in June, elicited no donations at all. The $1.1 million requested by UNHCR is needed to aid the hundreds of Somali women living in refugee camps in Kenya who have been raped while outside the camps searching for firewood, or attacked inside the camps at night. According to a UNHCR spokesman, the assaults on unmarried women have been particularly vicious, due to the Somali tradition of female circumcision. The practice involves excision and infibulation, so the women have been cut with knives before being raped.

The money was needed for measures to enhance security in the camps, for medicines -- particularly antibiotics to deal with the infections, and for provisions such as garments, the spokesman said. Many of the women, because they had no change of clothes, had had to continue wearing those they had on when they were attacked. Funding was also needed for a public awareness campaign, she said, because many of the women had been rejected by their families and communities after being raped. Those who had had children as a result of rape might never be able to return to Somalia and might need resettlement in a third country.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1503
20 October 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General announces major breakthrough in Mozambican peace process after meeting in Maputo with President of Mozambique and President of RENAMO; departs for Kenya as African visit continues.

+ United Kingdom, France, Netherlands and Argentina each send one ship to join United States and Canadian vessels enforcing Haiti sanctions.

+ United Nations human rights team to leave Geneva for Georgia tomorrow to investigate reported human rights abuses during recent fighting in Abkhazia; Special Representative Brunner hopes to convene round table with Abkhaz and Georgian sides in late November or December.

+ Sixth Committee (Legal), considering question of responsibility for attacks on United Nations personnel, hears call for application of universal jurisdiction.

* * *

After meeting today in Maputo with Joaquim Chissano, President of Mozambique, and Afonso Dhlakama, President of the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO), Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announced a major breakthrough in the Mozambican peace process. In a statement issued at Headquarters, he said an agreement had been reached with regard to the Electoral Commission, which would be composed of ten members for the Mozambican Government, seven for RENAMO and three for other political parties, as well as an independent chairman.

The Secretary-General also announced that all political parties would be represented at a forthcoming technical-level meeting, and that a draft electoral law would be sent to the Council of Ministers for approval before the end of the month. The draft would then be presented to the National Assembly for final adoption, hopefully before the end of November. A new calander for the demobilization of paramilitary forces, militia and irregulars would be approved before the end of the week, he continued. Problems relating to the composition of three Presidential Commissions had also been overcome.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General said the new momentum in the peace process would help him to convince the Security Council to maintain the United Nations presence in Mozambique. It would also encourage international financial institutions, donor countries and the European Community to offer more assistance to the country.

The Secretary-General was accompanied at today's meeting by James Jonah, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Aldo Ajello, his Special Representative for Mozambique. He later left Maputo for Nairobi, Kenya.

* * *

The United Kingdom, France, Netherlands and Argentina are each sending one ship to enforce the oil and arms embargo against Haiti, a United Nations spokesman said today. The ships will join six United States and three Canadian vessels already patrolling the waters off Haiti.

The sanctions were reimposed by Security Council resolution 873 (1993), and came into force on Monday night, because of the failure of the authorities in Haiti to fully implement the Governors Island Agreement. In resolution 875 (1993), the Council called on Member States to ensure strict implementation of the embargo by halting and inspecting ships travelling towards the country.

The spokesman said that "each vessel or each Member State has the autonomy within the resolution to act according to the resolution", and that each Government was informing the Council of actions being taken to comply with it.

* * *

A United Nations human rights team will leave Geneva for Georgia tomorrow to investigate reports of human rights abuses during recent fighting in the Abkhaz region, according to a statement issued by the United Nations Office in Geneva. The team is expected to be in the region for eight to ten days.

An investigation into human rights abuses was one of the conditions laid down by a Georgian Government delegation before it would sit down for talks with Abkhaz representatives, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Georgia, Edouard Brunner, said earlier this week. The other condition was that such talks would take place within the context of Georgian sovereignty.

Ambassador Brunner also said that he hoped to convene a round table in the second half of November or in December, and noted that the Abkhaz and Georgian sides were aware that the international community would not consider providing aid to the region without a political solution to the conflict.

* * *

In order to ensure that those suspected of attacks on United Nations personnel are adequately tried and punished, a system of universal jurisdiction should be applied, the representative of Brazil told the Sixth

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Committee (Legal) today. The Committee was continuing its consideration of the question of responsibility for attacks on United Nations and associated personnel.

Yesterday, Australia's representative told the Committee that a proposed international convention to protect the safety of United Nations personnel should extend to personnel working for humanitarian organizations on United Nations operations under an arrangement with the Secretary-General. He said he favoured a broad approach to the scope of such a convention, but noted that it might be necessary to define more clearly the circumstances under which United Nations personnel were carrying out activities in connection with United Nations operations. That would be particularly true for situations under authorization other than that of Security Council resolutions.

The Canadian representative agreed with the scope of application outlined by Australia, but said it would be difficult to include individuals or organizations working in the same area as United Nations operations but not formally linked to the Organization. The representative of Ireland said that the scope of the proposed convention might be widened to include personnel working not only under a Security Council mandate, but also those authorized by the General Assembly. The convention might also include humanitarian aid workers not operating pursuant to an agreement with the United Nations or the Secretary-General.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1504
21 October 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General meets with President and Vice-President of Kenya in Nairobi as African visit continues; warns of danger of marginalization of continent.

+ General Assembly elects 18 States to fill vacancies on 54-member Economic and Social Council; members will serve three-year terms beginning 1 January 1994.

+ Report by Independent Advisory Group on United Nations Financing says international community should be ready to accept higher peace-keeping costs as more crises loom; States should consider meeting costs from national defence budgets.

+ United Nations resumes humanitarian assistance operations throughout Angola; flights carry food to Cuito and Huambo; 100 foreign nationals to be flown out of Cuito tomorrow.

+ Cherif Bassiouni, an Egyptian national, appointed Chairman of Commission of Experts on war crimes committed in former Yugoslavia; Christine Cleiren of Netherlands and Hanne Greve of Norway appointed members.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, continuing his African visit in Kenya, had meetings today with Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi and Vice-President George Saitoti, during which the problems of the continent were reviewed, according to a United Nations spokesman. President Moi stated that he was looking forward to the resolution of the conflict in Somalia and was in touch with the parties there.

The Secretary-General and President Moi discussed how the international community could help Kenya cope with 400,000 refugees and with security problems along its 100-mile border with Somalia. The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for Kenya's assistance to the two United Nations programmes headquartered in Nairobi -- the United Nations Environment

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For information media—not an official record

Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT). As President of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), Mr. Moi also reviewed the role of the "Group of Four" -- Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda and Kenya -- with regard to Southern Sudan.

At a luncheon given by Vice-President Saitoti, the Secretary-General said that the marginalization of Africa was his greatest fear and constant concern. The international community felt itself overwhelmed by the world's problems in the wake of the cold war, and was now in retreat politically and economically. There was "donor fatigue" and a declining enthusiasm for development aid to the continent. Africa had an image problem, he continued, and Africans must show greater political determination to solve their problems. That message had been heard in Mozambique, resulting in an agreement yesterday between the Government and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO), and must find a responsive chord elsewhere in the region, he concluded.

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The General Assembly today elected 18 States to fill vacancies on the Economic and Social Council. The elections followed the geographical distribution of the seats being vacated: five from the African States (Egypt, Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania and Zimbabwe); three from the Asian States (Indonesia, Japan and Pakistan); one from the Eastern European States (Bulgaria); four from the Latin American and Caribbean States (Chile, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Venezuela); and five from the Western European and Other States (France, Germany, Greece and Ireland). They will serve three-year terms beginning 1 January 1994.

The Council's 54 members are elected according to the following pattern: 14 from Africa; 11 from Asia; 10 from Latin America and the Caribbean; 13 from Western Europe and Other States, and six from Eastern Europe. The elections are held by secret ballot, there are no nominations, and members are elected by a two-thirds majority.

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With signs of crises looming in many parts of the world, the international community should be ready to accept significantly higher peace-keeping costs in the next few years, according to a report by the Independent Advisory Group on United Nations Financing entitled "Financing an Effective United Nations". The report, which was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly in a note dated 11 October, said that because peace-keeping was an investment in security, Governments should consider financing it from their national defence budgets. Furthermore, the Organization should consider having a unified peace-keeping budget, financed by a single annual assessment.

The report highlighted the contrast between the demands on the United Nations and the smallness and precariousness of its financial base, and stressed that all Member States must pay assessed dues on time and in full.

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Members with past arrears, particularly the large contributors, should pay them as quickly as possible. Dues should be paid in four quarterly instalments, instead of in a lump sum at the start of the year. The Organization should have authority to charge interest on late payments, to be deposited in the Working Capital Fund. In addition, the level of the Fund should be raised from $100 million to $200 million, with the difference financed by a one-time assessment. The report also recommended that the regular budget assessment rate should be based on a three- rather than a ten-year average of Member States' gross domestic products (GDP), and that the United Nations should not be allowed to borrow.

A more effective and properly financed United Nations was urgently needed as it was the only framework for building the institutions of a global society, the report concluded.

* * *

With the resumption yesterday of humanitarian assistance operations throughout Angola, the United Nations system has been able to resume its relief flights, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Today a flight carrying 11 tons of food products left Luanda for the city of Cuito, for distribution to populations both in areas controlled by the Government and those controlled by the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). The spokesman said that a flight was scheduled for tomorrow to pick up some 100 foreign nationals there. A second relief flight to Huambo was also scheduled for today. The first flight to Huambo went in yesterday with 12 tons of food and medicines, and the distribution reportedly took place without incident.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today announced the appointment of Cherif Bassiouni as the new Chairman of the Commission of Experts established to examine possible war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia. Mr. Bassiouni, an Egyptian national, succeeds Frits Kalshoven of the Netherlands, who resigned for health reasons. He has been a member of the Commission since its inception and is a Professor of Law and President of the International Association of Penal Law.

Two new members were also appointed to the Commission: Christine Cleiren of the Netherlands, a Professor of Criminal Law at the Erasmus University, Rotterdam, and Hanne Greve of Norway, a Judge at the High Court of Gulating (Court of Appeals of Western Norway).

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1505
22 October 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General visits Somalia; meets in Baidoa with Special Representative Jonathan Howe, senior UNOSOM II staff and local leaders; meets in Mogadishu with senior civilian and UNOSOM II military staff; scheduled to go to Addis Ababa tomorrow to meet President of Ethiopia.

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted yesterday, appoints Ramón Escovar-Salom, Attorney-General of Venezuela, as Prosecutor of International Tribunal on war crimes committed in former Yugoslavia.

+ Total outstanding contributions to United Nations fall from $2.3 billion to $1.7 billion this month, Under-Secretary-General Wells tells Fifth Committee.

+ Government of Morocco and Frente Polisario to resume direct talks on Settlement Plan for Western Sahara in New York on Monday; Secetary-General's Special Representative to be present as active observer.

+ General Assembly, in resolution adopted without vote, calls on Secretary-General to provide Nicaragua with aid for refugee settlement, care for war victims, mine clearance and economic rebuilding.

+ General Committee recommends General Assembly include item on its agenda on economic assistance to third States affected by Security Council sanctions against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

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Continuing his visit to Africa, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali flew this morning from Nairobi to the Somali town of Baidoa, according to a United Nations spokesman. On his arrival there he held a meeting with his Special Representative in Somalia, Jonathan Howe, the Commander in Chief of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), General Cevik Bir, and other senior UNOSOM II staff. He reviewed with them the progress made in implementing the Addis Ababa Agreements of 27 March, focusing particularly on the issue of political reconciliation and reconstruction. They also discussed

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the future of the Operation in the light of the forthcoming withdrawal of some contingents, including United States troops, and the urgent need for the reorganization of remaining forces.

At midday, the Secretary-General addressed civilian and military staff of UNOSOM II at Baidoa, saying that he had come to Somalia on the day when United Nations Day was observed to express his solidarity with them and the Somali people. He then met with the District Council of Baidoa and community elders. After a luncheon hosted by the French contingent, Mr. Boutros-Ghali toured Baidoa.

The Secretary-General then flew with Admiral Howe to Mogadishu. He met there with senior UNOSOM II staff, and expressed gratitude for their work. He said the fact that the Operation was made up of troops from over 30 countries was proof that the United Nations was a reality, and added that what was being done in Somalia would have an effect on the other problems facing the world.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali returned later in the afternoon to Nairobi. Tomorrow, he is scheduled to visit Addis Ababa, where he will meet with the President of Ethiopia.

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The Security Council has appointed Ramón Escovar-Salom, Attorney-General of Venezuela, as Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991. By unanimously adopting resolution 877 (1993) yesterday, the Council completed the process of forming the International Tribunal established by resolution 827 (1993).

The Tribunal, which was established under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, consists of three organs: two trial chambers and an appeals chamber; the prosecutor; and a registry, servicing both chambers and the prosecutor's office. Last month, the General Assembly elected 11 judges, from a slate of 23 candidates nominated by the Council, to serve four-year terms on the Tribunal, effective 17 November.

In prosecuting war crimes, the Tribunal will apply only those rules of international humanitarian law which are part of customary law. The rules of international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflict are embodied in the 1949 Geneva Conventions for the Protection of War Victims; the 1907 Hague Convention on the Laws and Customs of War on Land; the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; and the category of "crimes against humanity", which were first recognized in the Charter and Judgement of the Nürnberg Tribunal.

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Funds received by the United Nations earlier this month reduced total outstanding contributions to the Organization from $2.3 billion to about $1.7

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billion -- $540 million for the regular budget and $1.1 billion for peace-keeping -- according to Melissa Wells, Under Secretary-General for Administration and Management. But she told the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) yesterday that as of the end of September, only 62 Member States had paid up their assessed contributions to the regular budget and 59 Member States had made no payments at all this year.

The representative of Latvia, speaking on behalf of Estonia and Lithuania, told the Committee that the General Assembly's decision to use an ad hoc method to calculate rates of assessment for the 15 States of the former Soviet Union had resulted in unequal financial obligations. Moreover, that decision had not respected the position of the Baltic States that they were not successor States of the former Soviet Union. The representative of Belgium, speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, called for a new scale of assessments methodology based on national income; the use of recent income data in determining the capacity to pay; and the retention of the floor rate of 0.01 per cent for developing countries.

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The Government of Morocco and the Frente Polisario are to resume direct talks on the Settlement Plan for Western Sahara in New York next Monday, a United Nations spokesman said today. They agreed during their first round of direct talks in July to meet again to discuss points of interest raised by each delegation.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, will be present at the talks next week as an active United Nations observer, according to the spokesman.

* * *

The General Assembly today called on the Secretary-General to provide Nicaragua with assistance in such fields as the settlement of displaced persons and refugees, direct care for war victims, mine clearance and the restoration of productive areas of the country. In a resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly called for such steps to support the consolidation of peace and the "process of sustained economic and social recovery and development that will render the peace and democracy achieved irreversible".

The Assembly also asked for continued support for Nicaragua from all Member States and international funding agencies, as well as from regional, intraregional and non-governmental organizations.

Introducing the resolution, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Nicaragua said his Government had not been able to integrate the domestic economy into the world economy. He noted that the country had been given more assistance for war than it was now receiving to consolidate democracy.

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The General Committee this morning recommended that the General Assembly include on its agenda an item on economic assistance to third States affected by the imposition of Security Council sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Acting without a vote, the Committee also recommended that the item be allocated to the Second Committee (Economic and Financial).

Introducing the item, the representative of Bulgaria said the sanctions had placed an economic burden on the States in the region and threatened their social, economic and political stability. Although the sanctions had been the most effective peaceful means of promoting resolution of the conflict, the international community should give urgent consideration to their effect on neighbouring States, he stressed. The representative of India called attention to Article 50 of the Charter, which gives affected States the right to consult the Security Council to solve problems arising as a result of sanctions. A number of other speakers also spoke in support of the recommendation, including the representative of Benin, who suggested that the effects of sanctions on third States should be evaluated periodically.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1506
25 October 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General arrives in United Kingdom for two-day visit after stops in Ethiopia and Egypt; condemns recent coup-d'état in Burundi.

+ In message for United Nations Day, Secretary-General says Member States must provide Organization with enough resources and see missions through to the end; successes have outweighed setbacks in last year.

+ Special Representative Howe condemns Somali-on-Somali violence in Mogadishu and calls on all parties to stop fighting immediately; says Somalis must show world that they can live together in harmony.

+ Dante Caputo, Special Representative for Haiti, calls for protection for Haitian Parliamentarians as they debate laws on new police force and amnesty; suggests that world leaders come to Port-au-Prince to serve as "witnesses".

+ One United Nations relief worker killed and eight wounded in Central Bosnia and Herzegovina as convoys come under fire; death brings to 10 the number of people killed working with United Nations humanitarian missions in former Yugoslavia.

+ UNOMUR fully deployed at authorized strength, Secretary-General says in report to Security Council; reconnaissance of Uganda/Rwanda border concluded.

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Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali visited Addis Ababa and Cairo this weekend and then left Africa for a two-day visit to the United Kingdom, according to a United Nations spokesman. Today he attended a working luncheon given by Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, and he is expected to meet with Prime Minister John Major tomorrow.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

On Saturday, the Secretary-General met in Addis Ababa with the President of Ethiopia and discussed with him the situation in the Horn of Africa and the large number of Somali refugees in the country. He also received a group of people from Burundi who asked for United Nations intervention in their country. He condemned last week's coup-d'état against Burundi's democratically-elected President and expressed concern at the situation there.

The Secretary-General then left Addis Ababa for Cairo, where he met with the Prime Minister of Egypt. They discussed, among other things, the participation of Egyptian troops in United Nations peace-keeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Somalia.

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In a message issued in observance of United Nations Day yesterday, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that the Organization was indispensable for international peace and security, for humanitarian assistance, for development, for the protection of the planet and for the promotion of democracy and human rights. Member States now placed more responsibility upon the United Nations than at any time in its history, he said, and consequently they must provide it with adequate resources, recognize the changed character of conflict today and persevere in seeing missions through to the end. They must also understand that peace and security had to rest upon a foundation of economic and social development.

The successes of the past year outweighed the setbacks, and the coming year would reveal whether the international community was ready for the challenges and opportunities before it, the Secretary-General went on to say. He appealed to everyone to consider and to assist the Organization, now and in the decades ahead.

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Special Representative Jonathan Howe today strongly condemned Somali-on-Somali violence in Mogadishu and called on all parties in the city to stop fighting immediately. He appealed to all citizens, and particularly to elders, religious leaders and other community representatives, "to help convince their brothers to put down their weapons and to avoid further confrontation".

The Somali people could not afford to squander the progress made so far in rebuilding their country, Admiral Howe said. Rehabilitation and reconstruction could only take place in an atmosphere of peace, and further violence would drive the country back to the despair and misery of the past. At this critical moment for the rebirth of Somalia, Somalis needed to demonstrate to the world that they could reconcile differences peacefully and live together in harmony. He went on to say that the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) remained fully committed to promoting national reconciliation and recovery.

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Dante Caputo, the Special Representative of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) for Haiti, this morning called for protection for Parliamentarians in Haiti, so that they could safely conduct a crucial debate on the creation of a new police force and on the question of amnesty. He said that Parliament was scheduled to debate and vote on laws regarding those issues within 48 hours. In view of the threats against Parliamentarians in the past, he stressed the importance of the military authorities in Haiti giving them "all necessary assurances and protection", in order to allow the debate to proceed.

Mr. Caputo also suggested that if world leaders who had been fighting for democracy and human rights went to Haiti, it would provide a form of moral and political protection. He cited as possible witnesses Jimmy Carter, Brian Mulroney, Michael Manley, or former Latin American Presidents Alfonsin and Sanguinetti. "Their presence here would reassure the Parliamentarians and help this process to continue," he said.

Meanwhile, a United Nations spokesman said that Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was scheduled to address the General Assembly next Thursday. Under the terms of the Governors Island Agreement he signed in July with the military leadership, President Aristide is due to return to Haiti on Saturday to resume power, two years after a military coup forced him into exile.

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The Danish driver of a United Nations relief supply truck was killed this morning and eight Dutch aid personnel were wounded when their convoys came under fire near the town of Novi Travnik in central Bosnia and Herzegovina. Because of ongoing fighting in the area between Bosnian Government forces and Bosnian Croat forces, witnesses were not able to tell if the trucks were attacked deliberately or were caught in crossfire, according to a United Nations spokesman. The death of the driver brought to ten the number of relief workers who have been killed while working with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) humanitarian missions in the former Yugoslavia.

High Commissioner Sadako Ogata warned that security conditions were worsening despite appeals from the international community that the warring sides respect humanitarian operations. "Although we are still awaiting a full report, I must emphasize that there is absolutely no excuse for an incident of this kind involving a clearly marked United Nations convoy," she said. "All sides were aware in advance that these convoys were in the region."

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The United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) has been fully deployed and has reached its authorized strength of 81 military observers, according to a report by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to the Security Council dated 22 October. He noted that 11 international civilian staff have also been deployed.

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In the first three weeks of its deployment, the Mission concluded a thorough reconnaissance of the Uganda/Rwanda border, set up a communications network and established its headquarters. It also established observation posts at two major crossing sites on the Ugandan side of the border and had been monitoring the border with mobile patrols. Additional observation posts would be established at three secondary crossing sites and airborne coverage of the border would be provided. The Secretary-General said he was consulting the Ugandan Government on the modalities of integrating UNOMUR into the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), and thanked the Government for its cooperation and support for UNOMUR.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1507
26 October 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement last night, condemns military coup in Burundi; demands that perpetrators reveal whereabouts of Government officials and permit immediate restitution of democracy.

+ Security Council warns military authorities in Haiti that it will consider extra measures beyond oil and arms embargo if Governors Island Agreement is not implemented; calls for departure of Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces and appointment of new police Commander.

+ Secretary-General expected to return to New York tonight after two-day stay in United Kingdom, following visit to Africa; is received by Queen Elizabeth II and meets with Prime Minister and Opposition leader, as well as with Russian Foreign Minister.

+ Secretary-General, in message to General Assembly plenary meeting on combatting illicit drugs, says drug abuse equals threat of damage to environment, AIDS or poverty; Assembly President says international community's success in tackling drug problem is crucial test of post-cold-war cooperation.

+ Secretary-General seeks suspension of humanitarian convoys in central Bosnia and Herzegovina until yesterday's attack on UNHCR convoy is investigated and safety guarantees received from warring parties.

+ General Assembly proclaims 1994 as International Year of Sport; urges Member States to observe "Olympic Truce" for one week before and after Olympic Games.

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The Security Council last night condemned last Thursday's military coup that deposed the democratically-elected Government of Burundi. In a statement read out by its President, Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg (Brazil), the Council

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strongly condemned the acts of violence and the loss of life caused by the perpetrators of the coup and demanded that they desist from taking any action which would worsen the tension and plunge the country into more violence and bloodshed. It also demanded that they reveal the whereabouts and fate of Government officials, release all prisoners, and end their illegal act in order to bring about the immediate restitution of democracy and constitutional rule in Burundi.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to monitor the situation closely and expressed appreciation for his dispatch of a Special Envoy to Burundi. It also paid tribute to the deceased President of Burundi, Melchior Ndadaye, and members of his Government for their "supreme sacrifice for democracy". It said those responsible for their violent deaths should be brought to justice.

In a related development, Under-Secretary-General James Jonah will leave Mogadishu tomorrow for Burundi, as an Envoy of the Secretary-General, "to assist the parties in returning the country to constutional legality", according to a United Nations spokesman.

Meanwhile, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said yesterday that at least $3 million to $4 million would be required initially to meet the emergency needs of the more than 300,000 refugees who had fled Burundi. The influx into Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire was expected to increase, and UNHCR field staff had reported that the refugees were in urgent need of help.

* * *

The Security Council has warned the military authorities in Haiti that if the Governors Island Agreement is not fully implemented, it will consider additional measures beyond the recently reimposed oil and arms embargo. In a statement read out by its President, Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg (Brazil), the Council called for the immediate departure of the Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces and the appointment of a new Commander of the police force, as required by the Agreement.

The Council condemned the acts of the military authorities who, it said, were continuing to violate and hamper the full implementation of the Governors Island Agreement by permitting the development of acts of violence. Reiterating its support for the legitimate Government of Haiti, the Council said it held the military authorities responsible for the security of members of that Government, of parliamentarians, and of United Nations personnel. It expressed support for the efforts of Special Representative Dante Caputo to put an end to the current crisis.

Earlier this month, the Council reimposed an oil and arms embargo against Haiti following the failure of the military authorities to comply with the Governors Island Agreement. It later called upon Member States, acting nationally or through regional arrangements, to ensure its strict implementation, in particular by halting and inspecting ships travelling towards the country.

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Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali was expected to return to New York tonight after a two-day visit to the United Kingdom following his trip to Africa, according to a United Nations spokesman. During the day, the Secretary-General was received in audience by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, and had meetings with Prime Minister John Major and Opposition leader John Smith.

The Secretary-General also met with Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding and Special Representative Thorvald Stoltenberg and discussed the idea of convening a follow-up conference to the London Conference on the former Yugoslavia. The spokesman noted that such a conference would require "a long preparation", including approval by the parties involved, the European Community and the Security Council.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General, accompanied by Mr. Stoltenberg and Mr. Goulding, met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev. Among the topics discussed were Somalia, Mozambique, Angola, Libya, Georgia and Afghanistan. They also discussed the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia, and in particular the idea of a follow-up conference to the London Conference.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today, in a message to the General Assembly's high-level plenary meeting on combatting illicit drugs, that drug abuse was a global threat equal environmental damage, the AIDS pandemic, or poverty. "It is therefore our duty to respond to this threat with international solidarity," he stated. The message was delivered for him by Giorgio Giacomelli, Director-General of United Nations Office at Vienna and Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, as the Assembly began two days of meetings on the issue.

With the setting up in 1991 of the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), he said, the international community had an effective means to reach its goals. UNDCP had identified new principles and strategic priorities which had gained the support of intergovernmental organs, particularly the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Now the emphasis had to be on action, taking into account two key aspects: the speed with which the drug problem spread and the growing impatience of civil society, which lead to simplistic or defeatist solutions. That made it essential that the global community translate its commitment to fighting drugs into real action by a serious effort to mobilize the necessary resources worldwide.

General Assembly President S.R. Insanally (Guyana) said that the international community's success in controlling drug abuse would be a litmus test of its ability to respond to the problems of the post-cold-war era. On one hand the global convergence of international society offered as much hope

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for peace as risk of conflict, but that also brought the world-wide spread of drug abuse, witnessed by the proliferation of illicit markets and the increasing prevalence of addiction.

At a time when all levels of society were in urgent need of capital, the illicit drug industry was a source of abundant capital and employment, he pointed out. Increasing foreign direct investment and privatization and the growth of developing country stock markets were positive changes, but they also provided new opportunities for drug trafficking syndicates and criminal organizations. The problem would continue to grow, he warned, unless illicit demand, supply and trafficking were tackled as inter-connected parts of a single global phenomenon.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed outrage at yesterday's attack on a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) relief convoy near the town of Novi Travnik in central Bosnia and Herzegovina. One Danish driver was killed and nine Dutch aid personnel were wounded when their trucks came under fire.

The Secretary-General has asked Special Representative Thorvald Stoltenberg to arrange for humanitarian convoys in central Bosnia and Herzegovina to be suspended until the incident has been investigated and credible guarantees of safe passage have been obtained from the warring parties.

* * *

The General Assembly has proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal, and urged Member States to observe an "Olympic Truce" for a week before and after each of the Olympic Games. It took that action yesterday by adopting, without a vote, two resolutions on building a peaceful and better world through sport. Under the resolution on the Year of Sport, the Assembly invited full participation in the Year by States, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system.

Also yesterday, the Assembly invited direct contributions to the University for Peace and to the Trust Fund for Peace, which was established to assist the University through voluntary contributions. In adopting a resolution on the subject, the Assembly invited Member States to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1508
27 October 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Parliamentarians for Global Action, scheduled to visit Haiti to witness implementation of Governors Island Agreement, express concern at violence in Port-au-Prince and call on Haitian authorities to guarantee safety of Haitian Parliamentarians and their own delegation.

+ Secretary-General appeals to Morocco and POLISARIO to honour obligations under Settlement Plan for Western Sahara after cancellation of New York talks; says he will continue efforts for implementation of Plan and registration of potential voters.

+ UNHCR charters freight train to transport relief supplies from Europe to refugees in Georgia and Azerbaijan next month.

+ Secretary-General, in report to General Assembly, says prospects for nuclear-weapon-free zone in Middle East have improved recently; but more openness, transparency and confidence needed; urges States in region to improve security cooperation during ongoing peace process.

+ General Assembly to elect five non-permanent members to Security Council on Friday.

* * *

A delegation of Parliamentarians for Global Action, which was invited by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Haiti to visit that country, today called on the Haitian military authorities to give them an immediate and public guarantee of their safety as a precondition for their visit. The Parliamentarians, who are holding their annual meeting at United Nations Headquarters, said their delegation was ready to depart as soon as they received the guarantee.

The Parliamentarians were to provide international witness and support for implementation of the Governors Island Agreement, but told Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali that they were concerned about reports of violence in Port-au-Prince and intimidation of members of the Haitian

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For information media--not an official record

Parliament. They called on the authorities in Haiti to give an undertaking that those Haitian Parliamentarians in the country, and those currently in the United States but wanting to return, would be given full protection by the military and the police there.

The members of Parliamentarians for Global Action went on to say that the opportunity still existed for the Governors Island accord to be implemented, either by the agreed deadline of 30 October or shortly thereafter. They appealed to the authorities in Haiti and to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his Government to display the necessary goodwill and political resolve to ensure that that happened.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today appealed to Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) to live up to their obligations under the Settlement Plan for Western Sahara after direct talks between the parties, scheduled to resume last Monday, were cancelled. The POLISARIO delegation found it impossible to resume the talks, which were initiated three months ago at Laayoune, because the Moroccan delegation included former POLISARIO officials, according to a United Nations spokesman.

The Secretary-General said he regretted that the parties had not found it possible to accept any options offered by Special Representative Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, in consultation with members of the Security Council, to overcome the procedural difficulties and enable the resumption of talks. He expressed the hope that a dialogue would be resumed in due course. In the meantime, with the support of the Security Council, he was determined to continue efforts for the implementation of the Settlement Plan and to proceed with the identification and registration of potential voters in the Western Sahara referendum.

* * *

The United Nations Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has chartered a freight train to carry more than 1,000 metric tons of relief supplies to refugees and displaced people in war-ravaged Georgia and Azerbaijan next month. The unprecedented rail shipment will carry wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and other supplies purchased throughout Europe and is scheduled to depart from Finland before mid-November. The cargo will be loaded onto secure rail wagons and accompanied by armed security guards for the two- to three-week journey. The train is expected to stop first in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, before traveling on to the Georgian capital, Tbilisi.

UNHCR logistics and transport specialists said shipping the humanitarian supplies by rail -- at an estimated cost of $250,000 --- would be much cheaper and safer than carrying them by truck to Georgia and Azerbaijan. UNHCR estimated that some 300,000 people in Azerbaijan are in need of assistance. Another 135,000 people need help in Georgia, including some 70,000 who recently fled the fighting in the Abkhazia region.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that the prospects for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East are better now than a few years ago, but that the openness, transparency and confidence required would go beyond anything now practised in the region. In a report to the General Assembly dated 25 October, he said that a nuclear-weapon-free zone could not be conceived in a political vacuum, separate from the process of mutual reconciliation. He urged all States in the region to take every opportunity in the ongoing peace process to build bridges of cooperation on security and related matters.

The Secretary-General noted that key obstacles to a nuclear-weapon-free zone were gradually being reduced or even eliminated. Some States were directly negotiating, the "nuclear postures" of extraregional powers were less of a complicating factor, and the threat posed by conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction was more widely appreciated than ever before. The creation of such a zone should neither lead nor lag behind inter-State negotiations on the broader aspects of a peace settlement, but should proceed in parallel, he concluded.

* * *

The General Assembly will meet on Friday to elect five non-permanent members for two-year terms on the Security Council, a United Nations spokesman said today. Voting is by secret ballot, and a two-thirds majority of States present and voting in the Assembly is required for election.

Candidates for election to the Council are put forward by their Regional Groups, the spokesman noted. For the Asian States there is one retiring member and one endorsed candidate (Oman); for the African States there are two retiring members, one endorsed candidate (Rwanda) and two interested candidates (Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria); for the Eastern European States there is one retiring member and two interested candidates (Belarus and the Czech Republic); for the Latin American and Caribbean States there is one retiring member and one endorsed candidate (Argentina); and for the Western European and Other States there are no retiring members and no candidates.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1509
28 October 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Haitian President, addressing General Assembly, asks for total blockade of Haiti to bring about compliance with Governors Island Agreement; conveys "message of peace" to Armed Forces and urges leaders to step down; stresses link between democracy and non-violence.

+ Under-Secretary-General Jonah, in Burundi as Secretary-General's Envoy, has meetings with Government officials and Army commanders in Bujumbura; says there is "power vacuum" in country.

+ International Tribunal on war crimes committeed in former Yugoslavia to hold inaugural session in The Hague from 17 November; Commission of Experts examining alleged crimes holds eighth session in Geneva.

+ United States tells Fifth Committee that United Nations funding mechanisms should better reflect economic growth in certain Member States; Japan says 10-year base period for calculating national income allows for stability and consistency in scale of assessments.

* * *

Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide today asked for "a total and complete" blockade of Haiti in order to bring about compliance with the Governors Island Agreement. In an address to the General Assembly, he urged the military rulers in Haiti to step down, warning that the flagrant violation of the Agreement would accelerate a move towards national breakdown. If General Raoul Cedras and the Army High Command were to step down tomorrow, he said, he would immediately summon Parliament to vote on bills dealing with the police force and the issue of amnesty.

President Aristide said that he wanted to send a "message of peace" to the Armed Forces, and expressed the hope that United Nations technical assistance would make it possible to professionalize them. He stressed that democracy and non-violence were inextricably connected. The military coup had brought about a genocide -- the assassination of a people in order to dominate them -- in which more than 4,000 Haitians had died. Institutionalized violence prevented the enjoyment of constitutionally-guaranteed human rights.

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For information media--not an official record

Haitians sought a stable State based on the law, ideological pluralism, political change and economic growth, he continued. An equation had to be drawn between political reconciliation and justice; what was at stake was peace in Haiti, in the hemisphere and in the world. He urged Haitians to build unity in diversity, and emphasized that his message was "no" to vengeance, "no" to violence, "no" to going unpunished, and "yes" to justice.

President Aristide met today with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at United Nations Headquarters and discussed with him, among other things, efforts to bring about compliance with the Governors Island Agreement and the effect of sanctions on the country, according to a United Nations spokesman.

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Under-Secretary-General James Jonah, in Burundi as the Envoy of the Secretary-General, met today with the country's Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Secretary of State for Cooperation at the French Embassy in Bujumbura, according to a United Nations spokesman. He also met with Army commanders, who conveyed their views as to how the situation in the country could be resolved.

Mr. Jonah had described the situation in Burundi as "catastrophic" and had said there was "a power vacuum" in the country, the spokesman reported. Mr. Jonah was expected to meet again with members of the Government, and to take a plane tour over parts of the country to survey the devastation from the air.

* * *

The International Tribunal established to prosecute war crimes committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia will hold its inaugural session in The Hague beginning on 17 November, according to a United Nations spokesman. The session is expected to focus on procedural matters.

Meanwhile, the Commission of Experts examining alleged war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia held its eighth session in Geneva yesterday. The Commission reviewed the progress made and the problems faced in on-site investigations recently started in Sectors East and West in Croatia -- excavations of alleged mass graves, and the Medak pocket in Sector South -- a preliminary investigation of alleged acts of ethnic cleansing, as well as in Dubrovnik -- an investigation of alleged unlawful destruction of cultural property.

The Commission elaborated plans to investigate detention camps, torture, extrajudicial executions and mass sexual assault which are soon to be the subject of field investigations. Those investigations will be funded by the voluntary Trust Fund set up for the work of the Commission. The Commission will hold its next session in Geneva from 13 to 15 December.

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United Nations funding mechanisms should better reflect the impressive economic growth enjoyed by certain Member States, the United States representative told the Fifth Committee Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) today as it continued discussing the scale of assessments for apportioning the Organization's expenses. The 10-year statistical base period currently used for calculating national income provided a distorted view of the relative economic strength of Member States, he said.

The Japanese representative told the Committee that the 10-year base period should be retained because it allowed for stability and consistency in scale of assessments. The representative of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, said that a shorter statistical base period would be more technically sound than the base period used currently. He noted that an independent advisory group on United Nations financing had recommended a three-year base period. The representative of Bangladesh urged that the debt burdens of least developed countries be considered when determining assessments.

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CORRECTION:

In the Daily Highlights of Wednesday, 27 October 1993, the second complete paragraph on page 2 should have read as follows:

"Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today appealed to Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) to live up to their obligations under the Settlement Plan for Western Sahara after direct talks between the parties, scheduled to resume last Monday, were cancelled. While the Memorandum of Understanding which laid down the ground rules for the talks gave to each party the right to choose the composition of its delegation, the POLISARIO delegation found it impossible to resume the talks, which were initiated three months ago at Laayoune, because the Moroccan delegation included former POLISARIO officials, according to a United Nations spokesman."

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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29 October 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNOSOM II mandate for interim period to 18 November, to allow Secretary-General more time for in-depth report and "related consultations"; reiterates commitment to future concerted strategy and consideration of Operation's humanitarinan, political and security activities.

+ General Assembly elects Argentina, Czech Republic, Oman, Rwanda and Nigeria as non-permanent members of Security Council, for two-year terms beginning 1 January 1994.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement last night, condemns massacre of civilians in Bosnian village of Stupni Do by Croatian Defence Council troops, and attacks on UNPROFOR and humanitarian convoy.

+ General Assembly pays tribute to memory of President Melchior Ndadaye of Burundi, killed in coup d'état last week; UNHCR to send second mission to Rwanda to coordinate relief programmes for Burundi refugees.

+ Secretary-General, finding lack of progress in implementing Bicesse Accords in Angola, recommends new Security Council measures against UNITA, but not before 1 December as political talks are underway; recommends more personnel for UNAVEM II, to be deployed in event of breakthrough.

+ General Assembly President, at First Committee observance of Disarmament Week, says danger of nuclear proliferation is causing new alarm; suggests United Nations meeting of regional organizations to enhance cooperation in field of peace and security.

+ General Assembly calls on States to ratify international instruments on drug control and to carry out effective control activities; stresses importance of Commission on Narcotic Drugs and United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

+ Secretary-General recommends that Security Council maintain UNOMIG at present strength for further three months, with interim mandate to maintain contacts with Abkhaz and Georgian sides and to monitor situation; plans for political talks under United Nations auspices.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says proposed military liaison team in Phnom Penh would work with Cambodian Government and Armed Forces, and report to him on security matters in country; team would serve for a single, six-month period.

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Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Security Council this afternoon decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) for an interim period until 18 November. By unanimously adopting resolution 878 (1993), the Council asked the Secretary-General to report before that date on recent developments in Somalia, in order to enable it to decide on a further extension of the mandate.

The Council reiterated its commitment to a future concerted strategy for UNOSOM II and to undertake an "in-depth consideration of its humanitarian, political and security activities" on the basis of the Secretary-General's specific suggestions. Its action this afternoon was in response to a letter by the Secretary-General, dated 28 October, in which he requested the interim extension of the mandate to allow time for the preparation of the in-depth report and for "other related consultations".

Last March, the Council voted to expand the size and mandate of UNOSOM II. That mandate, authorized through 31 October, provided for enforcement action to establish a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations and reconstruction throughout Somalia. The Operation was further charged with monitoring cease-fire and other agreements and empowered to take appropriate action against any faction violating them. It was also charged with seizing the small arms of all unauthorized armed elements and protecting with force the staff, installations and equipment of the United Nations and other relief organizations.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning elected Argentina, the Czech Republic, Oman, Rwanda and Nigeria as non-permanent members of the Security Council, for two-year terms beginning 1 January 1994. Candidates are put forward by their regional groups, based on negotiations held prior to elections, or, if a group has not been able to endorse the required number of candidates, the names of all interested countries are presented.

As the Security Council is a principal organ of the United Nations, the election of members has to be by secret ballot and requires a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. Retiring members of the Council

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cannot immediately be re-elected.

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The Security Council last night condemned the massacre of the civilian population in the Bosnian village of Stupni Do on 23 October by troops of the Croatian Defence Council. In a statement issued by its President, Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg (Brazil), the Council also said that it had heard accounts of attacks against the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) by armed persons bearing uniforms of the Bosnian Government forces, and of an attack on an UNPROFOR-protected humanitarian convoy on 25 October in central Bosnia. The Council expressed concern about the preliminary information to the effect that regular and organized armed forces had probably been involved in those acts of violence.

The Council said that it had asked the Secretary-General to submit, as soon as possible, a complete report on the responsibility for those acts. It was prepared to draw all the relevant conclusions from the report, which would also be transmitted to the Commission of Experts examining alleged war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia.

The Council reiterated its demand that all the parties in the former Yugoslavia comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, and that those responsible for violations of the law should be held accountable in accordance with its relevant resolutions. The Council also called on all parties in the former Yugoslavia to guarantee the unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance and the security of the personnel responsible for it.

* * *

In the General Assembly today, speakers representing each region of the world and the Host Country paid tribute to the memory of President Melchior Ndadaye of Burundi, who was killed in a coup d'état last week. The representative of Burundi expressed appreciation for the unanimous condemnation of the coup and called for international support to restore the democratic authority in his country.

Meanwhile, Under-Secretary-General James Jonah continued his visit to the country as the Secretary-General's Envoy. He was expected to leave shortly for Nairobi, Kenya, and to report to the Secretary-General from there, according to a United Nations spokesman.

In a related development, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced that a 24-member emergency mission would leave Geneva on Monday for Kigali, Rwanda, to join an earlier mission sent to coordinate relief programmes for refugees from Burundi. UNHCR has been mobilizing urgent relief assistance for nearly 600,000 refugees who have fled to Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire, and has allocated $5 million for the

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operation. The earlier UNHCR mission reported no serious malnutrition problems in the refugee camps but expressed concern about possible outbreaks of dysentery, meningitis and measles with the onset of the rainy season.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council impose additional measures against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) as not enough progress has been made towards implementing the Bicesse Peace Accords and Council resolutions. However, he said the Council should postpone such action until 1 December in view of the fact that UNITA and the Angolan Government were holding political talks in Zambia under the auspices of the United Nations. The Council last month imposed an oil and arms embargo against Angolan territory not controlled by the Angolan Government because UNITA had not implemented the Accords and its resolutions.

In a report on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) dated 27 October, the Secretary-General noted that the talks had been made possible because both sides had taken positive steps, including UNITA's proclamation of a unilateral cease-fire, and that there were grounds for "cautious optimism". He said the United Nations should be ready to respond decisively to consolidate any progress that might be made in the coming days.

The Secretary-General recommended that UNAVEM II's authorized strength be increased from 50 to 175 military observers, from 18 to 60 police observers, and from 11 to 14 military paramedics. Extra international and local staff would also be needed. The additional personnel would be deployed in the event of a breakthrough, and would enhance UNAVEM II's ability to verify developments on the ground and to provide good offices. He appealed to the Government and UNITA to make full use of the present opportunity and to consolidate the progress made so far in the search for a solution to the conflict in Angola. He also appealed to the international community for a coordinated response to the country's humanitarian emergency, noting that stocks of relief supplies were inadequate.

* * *

The President of the General Assembly, Samuel R. Insanally (Guyana), addressing the First Committee during its meeting this morning in observance of Disarmament Week, said the international community was coming closer to taking decisive steps towards the reduction and, ultimately, the elimination of nuclear weapons. But, as the threat of nuclear confrontation between the superpowers faded, the growing danger of nuclear proliferation was causing new alarm in people's minds.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction had emerged as a dominant preoccupation during this year's general debate, he said. Several initiatives were announced to reverse this trend, the most important being the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to initiate negotiations on a comprehensive test-ban treaty. Such steps would serve to contain the number

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of nuclear weapons, he added, while reinforcing expectations of an indefinite and unconditional extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Although the primary responsibility for regional security rested with States themselves, he said, the United Nations should be prepared to assist any group of States seeking to develop security measures and mechanisms for their region or subregion. He suggested that, in the context of the Agenda for Peace, a meeting might be held, under the Organization's auspices, of all relevant regional organizations, to explore ways to achieve closer cooperation with the United Nations in the field of peace and security.

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The General Assembly has renewed its commitment to strengthening international cooperation in dealing with the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of drugs. In a resolution adopted yesterday without a vote, the Assembly called on States to ratify and implement a number of international instruments on drug control and to carry out effective control activities in cooperation with other States. It underlined the key roles of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), as well as the continuing need for United Nations action to be coordinated under the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.

The Assembly identified a number of issues on which the Commission and the Economic and Social Council should make recommendations. Those included strengthening the fight against international criminal drug organizations and strengthening cooperation "to eradicate the growing and dangerous links between terrorist groups, drug traffickers and their paramilitary gangs and other armed criminal groups".

The Commission and the Council were also asked to make recommendations concerning penalties for related offences, including money laundering and arms trafficking, and to consider how to increase attention to targeting the profits and money-laundering operations of drug traffickers, strengthening interdiction procedures and enforcing the control of essential chemicals.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) be continued at its present strength of five military observers with minimal support staff for a further three months. In a report to the Security Council dated 27 October, he recalled that he had previously determined that UNOMIG's original mandate had been invalidated by the general breakdown in the cease-fire in Abkhazia in September. He therefore recommended that the Mission have an interim mandate to maintain contacts with both sides to the conflict and with Russian military contingents, and to monitor and report on the situation, with particular reference to developments relevant to United Nations efforts to promote a comprehensive political settlement.

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UNOMIG had established good relations with Abkhaz officials in Sukhumi and had been able to conduct patrols in the city, the Secretary-General noted. The Mission's continued presence in its present form and size would give the population visible evidence of international concern.

The Secretary-General reported that his Special Envoy for Georgia, Edouard Brunner, had had discussions in Geneva with Abkhaz and Georgian representatives. He had also been invited for discussions early next month with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov. In view of those developments, the Secretary-General said that he was planning for Ambassador Brunner to hold a first round of discussions with both parties late next month, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the Russian Federation present as facilitator. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) would also be invited to attend as a participant. The discussions would focus on the question of a political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, he said.

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In response to a request from the Cambodian Government, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali recently recommended that a military liaison team should be established in Phnom Penh for a single period of six months. In a report to the Council dated 27 October, he provided further details on the proposal. He said that the task of the 20-member team would be to liaise closely with the Cambodian Government and the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, and to report to him on matters affecting security there. The team would assist the Government in dealing with residual military matters relating to the Paris Agreements, which were the basis for the country's transition to peaceful democratic government.

The Secretary-General stressed that, in contrast with the long term civilian activities of the integrated office which he proposed to establish in Phnom Penh, the military liaison team was an exceptional transitional measure of a short term nature. The activities of the two operations should be kept separate, though in practice there would be regular contact between the Chief Military Liaison Officer and the United Nations Representative, and a sharing of support services and resources where that would produce significant savings.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1511
1 November 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement on Saturday, condemns non-fulfilment of Governors Island Agreement by Haiti's military leaders; warns of stronger sanctions against country.

+ Security Council extends ONUMOZ mandate until Friday, pending examination of Secretary-General's report on implementation of General Peace Agreement for Mozambique.

+ Secretary-General expresses shock at killing in El Salvador of leading FMLN member, noting apparent resurgence of politically motivated violent groups; asks Government to take measures to prevent recurrence and to ensure verification access for ONUSAL.

+ Director General of IAEA tells General Assembly further verification measures are needed to meet new challenges to global security; cites progress on verification in Iraq and South Africa and difficulties in Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

+ Secretary-General, receiving UNA-USA Global Achievement Award on Friday, says Member States alone can make United Nations work; expresses hope the United States will fulfil its role and maintain its prestige in Organization.

+ General Assembly commemorates 50th anniversary of Declaration of Four Nations on General Security in Moscow on 30 October 1943.

+ Secretary-General appoints Monica Pinto, Argentinian national, as representative on human rights situation in Guatemala.

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The Security Council has condemned the fact that General Raoul Cedras and the Haitian military authorities have not fulfilled their obligations under the Governors Island Agreement, and has deplored the prevention of the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti as provided for in the Agreement. On Saturday, the day by which President Aristide was to have

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returned to Haiti, Council President Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg (Brazil) read out a statement reaffirming that the Agreement remained fully in force as the only valid framework for the solution of the crisis in Haiti, which continued to threaten peace and security in the region. The statement also reaffirmed the Council's determination to maintain and enforce sanctions against the country until the Agreement was honoured.

The Council said it supported the invitation by Dante Caputo, Special Envoy of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), to all parties to meet to resolve obstacles remaining to the Agreement's implementation. It further reaffirmed its intention to consider strengthening sanctions if the military authorities continued to interrupt the democratic transition.

* * *

The Security Council decided on Friday to extend the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) for an interim period until 5 November, pending an examination of the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique. On 20 October, the Secretary-General announced a breakthrough in the peace process, involving agreement by Joaquim Chissano, President of Mozambique, and Afonso Dhlakama, President of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO), on electoral and demobilization issues. The Secretary-General said the new momentum justified the continued presence of the United Nations in the country.

By unanimously adopting resolution 878 (1993), the Council reiterated the importance it attached to the General Peace Agreement and to the timely fulfilment of it by all parties. The Agreement, which ended 14 years of civil war, was signed last year by the President of Mozambique and the President of RENAMO. ONUMOZ was originally established in December 1992 for a period of ten-and-a-half months until 31 October.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed shock at the killing in El Salvador of a leading member of the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), Heleno Hector Castro Guevara, a participant in the negotiations which led to the Peace Accord with the Government of El Salvador early last year. The shooting came only eight days after the murder of another FMLN leader, Francisco Veliz.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Secretary-General said that while the circumstances of Mr. Castro Guevara's death were still under investigation and responsibility had not yet been established, there was cause for alarm at the apparent resurgence of politically motivated violent groups "operating from the shadows". He said he trusted that the Government of El Salvador would take all necessary measures, especially those provided for under the Peace Accord, to prevent a recurrence of such events, and that it would ensure the transparency of the investigation into the murder and full access for verification by the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

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The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, presenting the report of the IAEA to the General Assembly today, said that nuclear transparency was the key to confidence-building. He stressed that the IAEA's safeguards and verification system was being strengthened, particularly with respect to detecting any undeclared nuclear material and installations in States with comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency.

Mr. Blix said that while there were still gaps in the IAEA's knowledge about Iraq's nuclear supply and procurement channels, the Agency had concluded that in all essential aspects, the country's former clandestine nuclear weapons programme had been mapped, and had either been destroyed or neutralized. Concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), he said that the possible diversion of nuclear material "cannot be excluded". The DPRK was seeking to restrict the Agency's verification activities and the area of non-compliance with the safeguards agreement had been widening.

Addressing the press later, Mr. Blix said that while much attention was paid to the risks of nuclear proliferation, note should also be taken of the successes in the field of prevention. He mentioned the example of Argentina and Brazil, which had "come a good way" towards accepting safeguards for all their nuclear programmes. He cited South Africa as the first country to have actually rolled back its nuclear weapons status, doing away with its weapons, recovering highly enriched uranium and placing it under Agency safeguards. Mr. Blix added that there was more hope of making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction following the successful negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, receiving the United Nations Association of the United States (UNA-USA) Global Achievement Award in Washington on Friday, stated that the world needed the United Nations today more than ever before, but only the Member States could make it work. There was no doubt that the leading nations of the world had the power, resources and creativity needed to shape a new international system, he said, but what was in question was perseverance, commitment and will.

Finding the right relationship between the United Nations and the United States, he said, might be one of the most important tasks of this era. If the United States decided, despite its legal obligations under the Charter, not to fulfil its financial undertaking to the Organization -- to make its contribution conditional or withhold it -- it could do so, he said. But those reponsible should consider carefully what such steps might mean both for American influence at the United Nations and for the precedent they would set for others.

The Secretary-General pointed out that, as in the past, Americans occupied top United Nations posts in Administration and Management, that

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America was the location of the Headquarters and major agencies of the United Nations, and that the major portion of United Nations procurement went to American suppliers. He raised those issues, he said, in the hope that the United States would fulfil its role in the Organization and maintain the hard-won prestige and leadership it had achieved there.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Four Nations on General Security, which was signed in Moscow on 30 October 1943 by the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the Chinese Ambassador to Moscow.

The Declaration contemplated the establishment, at the earliest practicable date, of a general international organization, based upon the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving States and open to membership by such States, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Four Nations declared that "united action, pledged for the prosecution of the war against their respective enemies, will be continued for the organization and maintenance of peace and security".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Monica Pinto, an Argentinian national, as his representative and independent expert to examine the human rights situation in Guatemala. Dr. Pinto is currently Deputy Director-General of Public Law at the Ministry of Justice in Argentina.

By a resolution of the Commission on Human Rights, Dr. Pinto's mandate will be to examine "the situation of human rights in Guatemala, to provide assistance to the Government in the field of human rights and to submit to the Commission a report assessing the measures taken by the Government of Guatemala in accordance with the recommendations made to it".

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1512
2 November 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council, in Presidential statement last night, warns UNITA of further sanctions unless it complies with Bicesse Accords and Council resolutions; encourages Secretary-General to plan for possible augmentation of UNAVEM II in event of progress in peace process.

- Under-Secretary-General Jonah says situation in Burundi is very dangerous despite Government's willingness to re-assume authority after coup; UNHCR appeals for $17 million to aid 600,000 refugees from country in Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire for three months.

- Secretary-General tells Pledging Conference for Development Activities that United Nations system provides unique assistance because it is multilateral, non-political and impartial; notes disturbing relative decline in aid disbursements.

- Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information says United Nations is "seeking to cover a king size mattress with a baby blanket" in its information activities; information strategy for peace-keeping operations cannot compensate for lack of political will.

- Secretary-General, in letter to Security Council, recommends deployment of UNTAC military police and medical units beyond 15 November withdrawal date as security conditions in Cambodia deteriorate.

- FAO to begin 15-day biennial Conference in Rome on Saturday; will elect new Director-General and examine global state of food and agriculture.

* * *

The Security Council last night said that it would consider the immediate imposition of further sanctions against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), including trade measures and travel

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For information media—not an official record

restrictions, unless UNITA complied with the Bicesse Peace Accords and relevant Council resolutions. In a statement read out by its President, Jose Luis Jesus (Cape Verde), the Council noted recent actions taken by the Angolan Government and UNITA, including the lessening of hostilities, and said it was essential that the two parties take the necessary steps to resume direct negotiations for a peaceful settlement and agree without delay on the modalities for an effective cease-fire.

The Council was acting in response to a report in which the Secretary-General recommended that the imposition of further measures be postponed until 1 December in view of ongoing political talks between the two parties under United Nations auspices. Sanctions currently in effect against UNITA took effect on 25 September and cover arms and matériel and petroleum and petroleum products reaching UNITA forces or UNITA-held territory.

In its statement, the Council encouraged the Secretary-General to carry out urgent contingency planning for the possible augmentation of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) in the event of significant progress in the peace process. The Council also expressed grave concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Angola, and called on the parties to cooperate fully in ensuring the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance and to ensure the security and safety of United Nations and other personnel engaged in humanitarian operations.

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Under-Secretary-General James Jonah, who last week visited Burundi as the Secretary-General's Envoy, today said that the situation in the country was very dangerous, even though the Government had said that it was prepared to re-assume its full authority following last month's military coup. Briefing correspondents at Headquarters today on discussions he had held in Bujumbura, Mr. Jonah said that the Government had wanted an international force dispatched to Burundi protect it and the country's institutions and instillations. The Army Command had opposed that idea and had declared its loyalty to the Government.

Mr. Jonah said that he had told the Government that the request for an international force might create difficulties in the Security Council, as Council members were not now in a position to authorize new peace-keeping operations. He had suggested that the Government might be protected by a small security corps and that installations might be safeguarded by a small monitoring group. He had also suggested that an international panel might look into the coup and the Army's behaviour, and that the Secretary-General might appoint a Representative as a confidence-building measure. That package of ideas had been accepted by both the Government and the Army Command, according to the Under-Secretary-General.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today launched an initial appeal for $17 million to provide emergency relief to more than 600,000 refugees from Burundi in Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire for three months. UNHCR has already deployed emergency teams to aid refugees who

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fled the October coup. The number of refugees is increasing and a new appeal will be issued if the emergency continues. Donor countries are also being asked to provide cargo aircraft to transport large quantities of relief items being brought into the region.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said that the development assistance provided through the United Nations system was essential and unique because it was multilateral, non-political and impartial. Unfortunately, he told the 1993 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, the resources provided fell short of needs. Living standards continued to deteriorate in many developing countries, particularly in Africa, yet the percentage of gross national product (GNP) devoted to aid had fallen from 0.38 in 1980 to 0.33 in 1992. It was particularly disturbing that disbursements by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and its Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to the United Nations system had fallen from 8.4 per cent in 1983 to 7.4 per cent today.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was the central funding, planning and coordinating agency for technical cooperation in the United Nations system, the Secretary-General continued. However, contributions in 1993 had been 15 per cent lower than in 1992. Development activities would be jeopardized if the trend continued. Meanwhile, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) fought "silent emergencies" -- disease, malnutrition and poverty -- with simple, low-cost remedies and preventive strategies, while the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) sought a balance between population growth and development. The challenges facing international development cooperation were formidable, and the United Nations must persevere with efforts to build a more cost-effective, responsive system, he concluded.

* * *

Marco Vianello-Chiodo, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, said yesterday that while there was support for the innovative approach that the Department of Public Information (DPI) was trying to adopt, the United Nations was often "seeking to cover a king size mattress with a baby blanket" in its information activities and programmes. The time had come to knit a new blanket or make a new mattress, he told the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) as it concluded its discussion of United Nations information activities.

Mr. Vianello-Chiodo addressed many of the issues raised by representatives during the Committee's debate, such as the integration of United Nations Information Centres with field offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); information strategies for upcoming world conferences; and the need for greater dissemination of information on United Nations activities, particularly peace-keeping operations.

The appointment of a spokesman for the President of the Security Council would require the creation of a new full time post, he noted. The Office of

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the Spokesman of the Secretary-General considered the appointment of a spokesman for all peace-keeping and other political operations essential to the success of a mission. The DPI was also planning a series of background briefings for the press which would cover the scope of all peace-keeping activities. However, no information strategy, however well planned and executed, could compensate for lack of political will, he said.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the deployment of certain military police and medical personnel serving with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) be extended in order to ensure the safety of UNTAC personnel and equipment being withdrawn from the country. UNTAC's Military Component had been scheduled to complete its withdrawal by 15 November. In a letter to the Security Council dated 1 November, the Secretary-General said that security conditions in Cambodia had deteriorated, and that incidences of theft of UNTAC property had increased, while the withdrawal plan was being put into effect. He therefore recommended that 71 Military Police Officers remain deployed there between 16 and 30 November, and that 30 remain between 1 and 31 December. He also recommended that 10 medical personnel be deployed between 16 November and 7 December, and that 8 remain between 8 and 31 December.

The Secretary-General went on to say that he had asked the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to enter into consultations with the new Cambodian Government with a view to providing technical support and capacity-building for a limited time. He stressed the importance of mine-clearance for post-conflict peace-building in Cambodia, and proposed that the deployment of 17 members of UNTAC's Mine Clearance and Training Unit be extended until 30 November.

* * *

Next Saturday in Rome, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will begin a 15-day Conference that will elect the Organization's Director-General for the next six years and examine the global state of food and agriculture. The biennial Conference is the summit and governing body of the largest specialized agency in the United Nations system and brings together agriculture ministers and senior officials from the FAO's 159 member nations.

FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma will open the Conference on Saturday, and there will be addresses by Lebanese President Elias Hraowi and Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. Next Monday, the membership will elect a successor to Mr. Saouma, who became Director-General in 1975 and was re-elected in 1981 and 1987. He has decided not to seek a fourth six-year term.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1513
3 November 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly, considering need to end United States embargo against Cuba, urges States not to apply laws and measures which affect sovereignty of other States; resolution adopted by recorded vote of 88 in favour to 4 against, with 57 abstentions.

+ Special Representative Beye says UNITA accepts principle of withdrawal of its troops from territory occupied since resumption of fighting in Angola; Angolan Government reacts positively to proposal of unilateral cease-fire declaration.

+ Despite assurances of cooperation, local Serb officials impede United Nation investigation of mass grave site at Ovcara, eastern Croatia; Commission of Experts deplores delay on humanitarian grounds.

+ Secretary-General recommends that Security Council extend ONUMOZ mandate until Mozambique elections in October 1994; says new momentum has been created for implementation of General Peace Agreement.

+ Thirty-five States pledge total of $275 million on first day of 1993 Pledging Conference for Development Activities.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says recommended expansion of UNAVEM II will cost more than $14 million for six months.

* * *

The General Assembly today urged all States to refrain from applying laws and measures which affected the sovereignty of other States or which did not conform with their international obligations regarding the freedom of trade and navigation. The Assembly took that action by a recorded vote of 88 in favour to 4 against (Albania, Israel, Paraguay and the United States), with 57

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abstentions, as it concluded its consideration of the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba.

The Assembly urged States that had such measures to repeal or invalidate them, and asked the Secretary-General to report to it at the next regular session on the implementation of the resolution.

Also today, the Assembly unreservedly condemned the coup which had caused a brutal and violent interruption of the democratic process in Burundi. Acting without a vote, it demanded that the perpetrators put down their arms and return to their barracks and that democracy and the constitutional regime be restored immediately.

* * *

The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) has accepted the principle contained in Security Council resolution 864 (1993) regarding the withdrawal of its troops from territory occupied since fighting resumed in the country last year, Special Representative Blondin Beye informed the Secretary-General today. For its part, the Government of Angola had reacted positively to a proposal by Mr. Beye that it unilaterally declare a cessation of hostilities, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Those developments took place after several rounds of meetings held in Lusaka, Zambia, under the auspices of Mr. Beye. Meanwhile, the spokesman said, he was continuing his efforts to conclude an agreement on a complete cease-fire and expected that negotiations would soon resume in Lusaka.

* * *

The investigation of a mass grave site at Ovcara, near Vukovar in eastern Croatia, has been delayed by local representatives of the self-proclaimed Serb administration in Knin in the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA) Sector East, according to the Commission of Experts examining possible war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. The Commission had received assurances of cooperation from Serb officials in Knin and in Krajina and had sent a team to begin work on the site, where as many as 200 victims of a possible mass execution had been buried.

When the team arrived, local Serb officials in Sector East created obstacles, and one stated that the investigation would have to wait until an overall political solution had been found to the situation in the former Yugoslavia. Commission Chairman Cherif Bassiouni went to Knin and was told that approval to begin work would be given by 1 November at the latest, but approval was not received by that date.

The Commission deplored the delay on humanitarian grounds, saying that identification of the remains at the grave site would alleviate the anxieties of the families of disappeared persons. Meanwhile, it was continuing field investigations in Sector West, the Medak pocket and Dubrovnik. The Commission

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pointed out that while its investigations were being prepared, the attitude of the Government of Croatia had been positive and helpful.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) until elections are held there in October 1994. In a report on ONUMOZ dated 1 November, he recalled that major agreements on outstanding issues had been reached by the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO) during his visit to the country last month, and said that a new momentum had been created which would facilitate implementation of the General Peace Agreement. He said that the status of ONUMOZ should be reviewed at least every three months, and that further international commitment should depend upon clear progress in implementing the Agreement, in accordance with its revised timetable.

The Secretary-General noted that fulfilling the terms of the peace agreements would impose a heavy financial burden on the Mozambican Government, and that international help would be needed in absorbing RENAMO representatives into the public administration and into society. Only $5.8 million had been contributed to the United Nations Trust Fund established in accordance with the General Peace Agreement and another $5 million would be needed. He suggested that complementary funding mechanisms might be established to help transform RENAMO into a political party, although such mechanisms would not be administered by the Organization.

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Pledges totalling more than $275 million were received from 35 countries for the development activities of the United Nations system as the two-day 1993 Pledging Conference for Development Activities opened yesterday. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) received almost $107 million, and an additional $86 million in provisional pledges. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) received pledges worth some $29 million, while $45 million was pledged for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Among other pledges announced yesterday were $1.1 million for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); $6.5 million for the United Nations International Drug Control Programme; almost $600,000 for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women; and almost $700,000 for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that expanding the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), as recommended by him in a report to the Security Council dated 27 October, would cost more than $14 million for a six-month period. In a further report on UNAVEM II dated

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1 November, he said that the Mission would require an extra 21 international civilian staff, 125 military observers, 42 police observers, 3 medical personnel and 37 local staff.

The Secretary-General said that should the Council approve the expansion, he would recommend to the General Assembly that the cost be considered a United Nations expense to be borne by Member States, and that the assessments levied should be credited to the UNAVEM special account.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1514
4 November 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council extends withdrawal period of UNTAC military police and medical elements up to 31 December to ensure safety of personnel and equipment leaving Cambodia; extends withdrawal of mine clearance unit to 30 November; establishes military liaison team for six-month period.

- Secretary-General to convene Fourth Coordination Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia in Addis Ababa from 29 November to 1 December.

- General Assembly re-elects Sadako Ogata as UNHCR for five-year term as of 1 January 1994.

- Co-Chairman of Yugoslavia peace conference says suspended peace talks on Bosnia and Herzegovina are unlikely to resume while fighting continues; warns of inevitable humanitarian disaster this winter and reports on efforts to improve safety of relief convoys.

- General Committee recommends inclusion in General Assembly's agenda of item on promotion and protection of rights of children who are victims of especially difficult circumstances, including armed conflicts.

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The Security Council today extended the deployment of military police and medical elements of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) beyond the scheduled withdrawal date of 15 November, on the basis that they would be withdrawn by 31 December. The extension had been recommended by the Secretary-General, in a letter to the Council dated 28 October, in order to ensure the safety of UNTAC personnel and equipment being withdrawn from the country amid deteriorating security conditions. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 879 (1993), in which it noted that the withdrawal of other UNTAC elements would end on 15 November.

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The Council also extended the period of withdrawal of UNTAC's mine clearance and training unit until 30 November. It noted the need for continuity in the vital work of the Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC) and urged Member States to assist CMAC with technical experts and equipment. In addition, the Council decided to establish a team of 20 military liaison officers for a six-month period to report to the Secretary-General on matters affecting security in Cambodia, to liaise with the Government, and to assist it in dealing with residual military matters relating to the Paris Agreements. It welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to appoint a person to coordinate the United Nations presence in the country, in accordance with the spirit and principles of those Agreements.

Affirming the importance of ensuring respect for international humanitarian law, particularly in view of Cambodia's recent tragic history, the Council welcomed the First Prime Minister's commitment to the implementation of the new Constitution, and endorsed arrangements envisaged by the Secretary-General for appropriate United Nations activities in support of that commitment. It also welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to report on the lessons learned during the course of UNTAC in the context of the Agenda for Peace.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will convene the Fourth Coordination Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 November to 1 December. The Meeting will review developments in the humanitarian situation in Somalia since March, when the last such meeting was held, with a view to reaching agreement on priority actions to be undertaken in the immediate future. It will also begin discussion of long-term development planning.

The meeting will be chaired by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, and will be held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Participants will include representatives of donor Governments and of neighbouring countries, Somalis from all regions, and representatives of United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations and regional organizations.

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The General Assembly, acting without a vote, this morning approved the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend the appointment of Sadako Ogata of Japan as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a five-year term, beginning on 1 January 1994 and ending on 31 December 1998.

Mrs. Ogata was appointed High Commissioner for Refugees in January 1991, the first woman ever to have held the post.

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The suspended peace talks on the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina are unlikely to resume while the present outbreak of fighting continues in the country, according to the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen, the European Community's Envoy. Addressing a press conference in Geneva today, he said that it looked as though a decision had been made to sit out the winter and restart the war in the spring. "There is no sign at the moment that any side is doing anything other than preserve their interests -- and will do so at the expense of their citizens," he stated.

Lord Owen warned that without a negotiated settlement of the conflict, thousands of people were likely to lose their lives this winter. "We are heading for a very nasty humanitarian disaster this winter, and the question is not if, but when," he said, and added that United Nations and other humanitarian workers were taking unacceptable risks to deliver relief supplies.

He reported that Co-Chairman Thorvald Stoltenberg, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the former Yugoslavia, was seeking guarantees from the three parties to the conflict, that any members of their military forces who attacked United Nations or other relief convoys would be apprehended and dealt with. "We want to be convinced that their military are informed at every level, right down through their command structure, that targeting the United Nations or the non-governmental organizations involved in the humanitarian effort is a criminal act which will be punished," he said.

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The General Committee of the General Assembly this morning recommended the inclusion in the Assembly's agenda of an item on "the necessity of adopting effective measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of children throughout the world who are victims of especially difficult circumstances, including armed conflicts". It would be allocated to the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

The representative of Cuba, Juan Antonio Fernandez Palacios, introduced the proposed item, in his capacity as Chairman of the Latin American and Caribbean Group. He said 200,000 children died weekly from malnutrition and curable diseases, while nearly 20 million were physically disabled, confined in refugee camps or homeless as a result of wars. It was difficult to justify the Assembly failure to address the problem directly, he said.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1515
5 November 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, expresses shock and concern at recent murders in El Salvador of members of FMLN and ARENA party; calls on authorities to take all necessary measures to bring those responsible to justice; Secretary-General to send mission to country next week to assess situation on ground.

+ Security Council renews mandate of ONUMOZ for six months, subject to review within 90 days; requests reports by Secretary-General every three months thereafter; authorizes him to proceed with selection and deployment of 128 United Nations police observers.

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted yesterday, approves continued presence of UNOMIG until 31 January 1994; mandate not to be extended beyond then unless it will aid peace process.

+ Secretary-General proposes programme budget for 1994-1995 totaling $2,749 million, reflecting real growth of 1 per cent from 1992-1993; seeks stronger political, humanitarian affairs, development and administrative capabilities; United Nations Controller says Organization is in serious financial crisis.

+ Memorandum of Understanding signed by UNHCR and Government of Myanmar to facilitate return of refugees from Bangladesh.

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The Security Council this afternoon expressed shock and concern at the violent deaths in recent days in El Salvador of two leaders and other members of the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) and one member of the Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (ARENA) party. In a statement read out by its President, Jose Luis Jésus (Cape Verde), the Council noted that the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) had referred in its last two reports to what appeared to be a pattern of politically motivated murders. It described the development as all the more serious in the light of the upcoming electoral process and insisted that the violence had to stop.

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The Council called on the authorities in El Salvador to take all necessary measures to ensure that those responsible for the killings were promptly brought to justice, so as to prevent a future recurrence of such events. It welcomed the technical cooperation offered by Member States to assist in the investigation of the murders. The statement went on to note the Secretary-General's observation in his latest report on El Salvador that there appeared to be a resurgence of illegal armed groups and endorsed his decision to direct the Human Rights Division of ONUSAL to work with the El Salvador Human Rights Prosecutor to help the Government carry out a thorough investigation of such groups.

The Council underlined the importance of the full and timely implementation of the Peace Accords and expressed concern about delays in the phasing out of the National Police and the full deployment of the National Civil Police, and in the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on the Truth.

In a related development, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has decided to send a mission to El Salvador next week to assess the situation on the ground, according to a United Nations spokesman. The mission will also formulate, with ONUSAL Chief Augusto Ramirez-Ocampo, the steps needed to address the apparent revival of death-squad activities, the non-implementation of many of the Truth Commission's recommendations, delays in implementing land and reinsertion programmes and problems with electoral registration.

The mission, headed by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Marrack Goulding, will arrive in the country on Monday and stay there until the following weekend, the spokesman said.

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The Security Council today decided to renew the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) for a period of six months, subject to the proviso that it would review the status of the mandate within 90 days, based on a report by the Secretary-General. In that regard, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report by 31 January 1994 and every three months thereafter on whether the parties have made sufficient and tangible progress towards implementing the General Peace Agreement and meeting the timetable for electoral and military developments, and also on the implementation of the mandate of UNOMOZ.

By unanimously adopting resolution 882 (1993), the Council also authorized the Secretary-General to proceed with the selection and deployment as soon as possible of the 128 United Nations police observers approved by resolution 797 (1992).

The Council commended the agreements reached between the President of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano, and the President of Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO), Afonso Dhlakama, during the Secretary-General's recent visit to Maputo, on outstanding issues that were impeding the peace process. It called on the Government and RENAMO to build on the progress

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which had been achieved and to respect fully all the provisions of the General Peace Agreement, in particular those concerning the cease-fire and the movement of troops.

While emphasizing the recent positive developments in the country's peace process, the Council stressed its concern with the continuing delays in the implementation of the Peace Agreement and urged the parties not to raise any further issues which might jeopardize its implementation, particularly in the light of commitments entered into during the Secretary-General's visit.

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The Security Council yesterday approved the continued presence until 31 January 1994 of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), comprising five military observers plus minimal support staff. The Mission will maintain contact with both sides of the conflict and military contingents of the Russian Federation, and will monitor and report on developments relevant to United Nations efforts for a comprehensive political settlement.

By unanimously adopting resolution 881 (1993), the Council decided that UNOMIG would not be extended beyond 31 January 1994 unless the Secretary-General reported that prolonging the mandate would serve the peace process. It asked the Secretary-General to report as appropriate, but not later than January 1994, on the activities of UNOMIG. It also asked him to take make plans enabling prompt deployment of additional personnel within the originally authorized strength of UNOMIG if the situation warranted it.

The Council welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, Edouard Brunner, in cooperation with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and with the help of the Russian Federation as facilitator, to carry the peace process towards an overall political settlement, and in particular to bring both parties together later this month in Geneva.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proposed a programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 totaling some $2,749 million, compared with a revised appropriation of $2,468 million for 1992-1993, United Nations Controller Yukio Takasu told correspondents at Headquarters today. He pointed out that most of the increase -- $256 million -- resulted from recosting for currency fluctuations and inflation, and that the proposed budget represented real growth of only 1 per cent -- $25 million.

The Secretary-General attached great importance to the budget, which was the first full one proposed by him and which reflected major changes brought about by the restructuring of the Secretariat, Mr. Takasu said. His priorities had been to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations in political and humanitarian affairs, to strengthen its contribution in the area of development cooperation and to increase administrative efficiency. The Secretary-General had made a maximum effort to handle the Organization's

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increasing workload with existing staff, but not everything could be achieved through redeployment. New resources were needed in the areas of peace-keeping operations, human rights, humanitarian affairs and political affairs.

Mr. Takasu stressed that the United Nations was still experiencing a serious financial crisis. As of the end of last month, unpaid contributions to the regular budget totaled $528 million. So far this year, only 66 Member States had paid their dues in full out of a Membership of 184, and 45 had paid nothing at all. The cash-flow situation had been very bad in August, but had improved in September and October because of payments made by certain States. The crisis meant that reimbursements to troop-contributing countries had been delayed for some months. He warned that the Organization would face serious problems unless substantial payments were received next month.

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To facilitate the return of refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Myanmar. The MOU stipulates that UNHCR will be given access to all returnees, that they will be issued appropriate identification papers and that they will enjoy the same freedom of movement as any other nationals. The returnees will be provided with household goods and building materials, and will receive food assistance for two months. To enhance their economic and social stability, community projects in agriculture, water and sanitation and education will be implemented, with the intention of also benefiting the surrounding population.

According to UNHCR, the repatriation programme will be maintained in close coordination with other United Nations agencies, to assure the continuum from relief to development. The Agency also said that it would be seeking financial support for the programme from the international community in the coming weeks.

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, expresses concern at disorder and civilian suffering in Western Georgia; cites threat to humanitarian situation in Azerbaijan and Armenia; welcomes improvement in security of railroads following Russian assistance.

+ Samir Sanbar to replace Marco Vianello-Chiodo as Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information from 17 January 1994; transfer of responsibilities to begin tomorrow.

+ Staff and functions of Internal Audit Division, Management Advisory Services, Central Evaluation Unit and Central Monitoring Unit to be redeployed from Department of Administration and Management to Office of Inspections and Investigations.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs urges Member States to contribute to humanitarian relief programme in Angola; notes serious shortfall in May appeal, especially in non-food sector.

+ Committee against Torture begins eleventh session in Geneva; to review measures taken by eight States to prevent and punish torture and consider report on World Conference on Human Rights.

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The Security Council this afternoon expressed anxiety and concern at developments in Western Georgia, where continuing disorder has caused mass suffering among the civilian population and threatened to seriously aggravate the humanitarian situation in neighbouring Azerbaijan and Armenia.

In a statement read out by its President, Jose Luis Jésus (Cape Verde), the Council noted the Georgian Government's appeal to the Russia Federation, Azerbaijan and Armeina for assistance to protect and ensure the uniterrupted operation of railroads in the Republic of Georgia. The Council said those communication links were crucial for the three Transcaucasian countries, and welcomed the improvement in security following the Russian response, which had been made in accordance with the Georgian Government's wishes.

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The Council appealed to the international community to continue its efforts to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to the population of Georgia.

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The Secretary-General has decided that Samir Sanbar, previously his Special Representative for the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER), will replace Marco Vianello-Chiodo as Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information with effect from 17 January 1994. Announcing the appointment today, a United Nations spokesman said Mr. Vianello-Chiodo had informed the Secretary-General that he wanted to leave his post on that date.

Mr. Sanbar, who was the Director of the Information Centres Division of the Department of Public Information (DPI) until January of this year, will become Officer-in-Charge of DPI as of tomorrow. He will immediately begin to take over responsibilities from Mr. Vianello-Chiodo, who, until his departure in January, will remain available to the Secretary-General for special assignments.

The Office of the Spokesman, previously part of DPI, is to become part of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General with immediate effect. It will report through Alvaro de Soto, Senior Political Advisor in the Secretary-General's Executive Office, who will assume new responsibilities for relations with the media.

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The staff and other resources of the Internal Audit Division, Management Advisory Services, Central Evaluation Unit and Central Monitoring Unit, which are currently within the Department of Administration and Management, are to be redeployed to the Office of Inspections and Investigations, according to a United Nations spokesman. The functions now being carried out by those units will be transferred to the Office for Inspections and Investigations, which was created by the Secretary-General in August to inspect all activities performed by the Organization.

Mohamed Niazi, Assistant Secretary-General for Inspection and Investigations, will work closely with Melissa Wells, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, according to the spokesman. A report on the redistribution of functions and resources between the Department of Administration and Management and the Office of Inspections and Investigations will be submitted to the General Assembly at its current session.

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Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, today sent a letter to Member States appealing urgently for contributions to the humanitarian relief programme in Angola, according to a United Nations spokesman.

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While access to the areas of greatest need in Angola had improved significantly in recent weeks, the humanitarian appeal launched in May remained seriously underfunded, the spokesman said. So far, only $60.5 million out of the required $226 million has been forthcoming. The situation was especially acute in the non-food sector, where less than 15 per cent of the funds required had been pledged.

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The Committee against Torture, a body comprising 10 independent experts, began its eleventh session in Geneva today. During the session, which will end on 19 November, the Committee will review the measures taken by Belize, Peru, Paraguay, Poland, Egypt, Ecuador, Portugal and Cyprus to prevent and punish acts of torture. Representatives of those States are expected to present reports on how they apply the rights and guarantees enshrined in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The Committee will also examine any evidence that torture is being systematically practised in a State party to the Convention, as well as communications from individuals claiming to be victims of a violation by a State party. In addition, the Committee will consider a report on last June's World Conference on Human Rights, and will have before it the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Conference.

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